



Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-88-053
Friday
18 March 1988

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-88-053

CONTENTS

18 March 1988

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Cabinet Level Talks Planned on U.S. Trade	1
'Intense Negotiations' Expected	1
Australia Requests Beef Liberalization	2
Official Meets With SRV Envoy on Spratlys	2
PRC Reported To Reverse War Orphans Decision	2
Government To Start Third Yen Credit to PRC	2
Steel Price Raised for Exports to China	3
Diet Mission Postpones Visit to Seoul	3
Environment Pact Signed With South Korea	3
Foreign Minister To Leave for Seoul 20 March	3

North Korea

Daily Urges South To Respond to Talks Proposal	4
Further on Appeal to South	6
South 'Puppet Army' Holds 'War Rehearsal'	6
Rallies Denounce 'Rehearsal'	6
Japan's Stockpiling of 'War Supplies' Condemned	7
KCNA Criticizes Chon Tu-hwan U.S. Visit	7
CPRF Scores South Police Head's Release	7
Soviet Ship's Crew Sends Letter to Kim Chong-il	7
Kim Chong-il Replies to Birthday Messages	8
Officials Attend Soviet Fete Marking Treaty	8
O Chin-u Sends Message to Mongolian Counterpart	8
Kim Yong-nam, YAR Counterpart Mark Ties	8
Yang Hyong-sop Sends Message to Syrian Official	8
Cuba Publishers Mark Meeting of Leaders	9
KCNA Reports Progress of 200-Day Campaign	9
People To Display 'Stamina'	9
'Big' Efforts Made To Electrify Railways	9
Meeting Marks Founding of Central TV Station	10

South Korea

O Cha-pok Warns North of 'Retaliatory' Response [TONG-A ILBO 18 Mar]	10
Cuba Said 'Likely' To Participate in Olympics	11
DJP Plan To Drop 'Influential' Figures Noted [THE KOREA TIMES 18 Mar]	11
Other DJP Figures Dropped [THE KOREA HERALD 18 Mar]	12
YONHAP Views No's 'Strategy'	12
Further on Kim Tae-Chung's Resignation	12
Act Presages 'Fierce' Election [THE KOREA HERALD 18 Mar]	12
Kim Tae-chung Said in 'Hiding' [THE KOREA TIMES 18 Mar]	13
Paper Views Resignation [THE KOREA TIMES 18 Mar]	14
RDP Seeks Merger Before Talks [THE KOREA HERALD 18 Mar]	14
Merger Prospects 'Unclear' [THE KOREA TIMES 18 Mar]	15
Roles of Dissidents, Students Noted [THE KOREA TIMES 18 Mar]	16
No Discusses Role of Military, Elections [THE KOREA TIMES 18 Mar]	17
Further Talks With U.S. on Beef Imports	18
U.S. Files Case With GATT [THE KOREA TIMES 18 Mar]	18
Ventures With U.S. Insurance Firms Approved [THE KOREA TIMES 18 Mar]	18

Taiwan Seeks To Increase Volume of Trade	19
National Youth Overseas Corps Established	19
Striking Workers Stone Hyundai Guard [THE KOREA TIMES 17 Mar]	20
Police Seek Union Figures [THE KOREA HERALD 18 Mar]	20
New National Assembly Secretary General Named [THE KOREA HERALD 18 Mar]	21

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

Security Police Enter Rangoon Campus [AFP]	22
Inquiry Commission Formed	22
Asks Public for Information	22
Student Unrest Spreads [AFP]	22
People's Assembly Session Continues	23

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Danish Prime Minister Begins 3-Day Visit	23
Mahathir Addresses Dinner	24
Meeting Held 18 March	24
Mahathir on Constitutional Amendment Plans	24

Cambodia

Four-Nation Conference Held March 16-17	25
Hun Sen Receives Visiting Officials	25
Agreement With USSR Signed	26
SRV Pullout Said 'Key' to Cambodian Solution [VODK]	26

Laos

Border Dispute Talks With Thailand Continue	27
Two Sessions Held 17 March	27
Morning Session Held 18 March	27
Leaders Attend Funeral Rites for Late General	28

Philippines

House Commences Study on U.S. Bases Options [BUSINESS WORLD 18 Mar]	28
Central Luzon Role in Bases Talks Urged	28
Military Lacks Nuclear Arms Detection Skill [PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE 18 Mar]	29
Aquino Receives Japanese Pledge of Support	29
Discusses Internal Situation	29
Army Overruns Pangasinan Communist Outpost	29
Takes Control of Camp	30
Captures Top NPA Commander	30
Kills 4 NPA Members	30
Rebels Kill 2 Soldiers in Manila Ambush [KYODO]	30
Army Repositions Troops in Ilocos Norte [THE MANILA CHRONICLE 18 Mar]	31
Rebels Building Up Forces Along Coast [PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 18 Mar]	31
Aquino, Ramos Meet Mindanao Officials	32
Speaker Mitra on Aquino Visit	33
Aquino Welcomes Muslim's Surrender	33

Misuari 'Suspicious' of Peace Talks Offer	
<i>[Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST 18 Mar]</i>	34
Issues Conditions for Talks <i>[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 18 Mar]</i>	35
Favors Federal Government <i>[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 18 Mar]</i>	35
Talks With MNLF's Misuari Called 'Useless'	36
Mindanao Movement Supports Bid To Joint ICO	36
President Aquino Holds Weekly Radio Program	36

Thailand

Commentaries on Border Dispute Talks With Laos	38
Lao Sincerity Advocated	38
Lao Reply to Proposal Awaited <i>[THE NATION 18 Mar]</i>	39
Paper Praises Policy Change Toward Laos <i>[SIAM RAT 18 Mar]</i>	40
Chawalit Testimony Prompts News Briefing <i>[BANGKOK POST 18 Mar]</i>	41
Foreign Ministry's Role in Dispute Examined <i>[SIAM RAT 25 Feb]</i>	41
Prem Meets With Soviet Ambassador About Visit <i>[BANGKOK POST 18 Mar]</i>	42
Joint Bombing Raids on Communist Strongholds <i>[BERNAMA]</i>	42
Increased Naval Patrols Stem Refugee Influx <i>[THE NATION 18 Mar]</i>	42
Editorial Explores Ways To Seek Return of Lintel <i>[NAEO NA 18 Mar]</i>	43

Vietnam

VNA Carries Diplomatic Note on China Talks	43
UN Envoy Meets Perez de Cuellar Over Spratlys	44
Red Cross Aid Requested To Rescue Ships	44
Proposal for PRC Talks on Spratlys Viewed	44
Radio Cites NHAN DAN	45
Further From NHAN DAN	45
Thailand's Prem Condoles Death of Pham Hung <i>[Bangkok VOFA]</i>	46
India, Syria Mourn Pham Hung	46
Talyzin Departs After Funeral	46
Countries Sending Pham Hung Condolences Listed	47
Cooperation Agreement Signed With Laos	48
VNA Reviews USSR Trade Ties Since 1958	48
Fishing Cooperation With USSR Expanded	48
Cooperation Pact Signed	49
Cooperation Protocol With Cuba Reported	49
Military Delegation Concludes Cuba Visit	49
Regulations on Household Economy Issued	50
Council of Ministers Directive on Grain	50
Vo Van Kiet Addresses Red Cross Gathering	51
2-Day Congress Closes	51
New Committee Elected	52
Briefs	53
Coffee Exports to USSR Noted	53
Population Studies Seminar	53

Japan

Cabinet Level Talks Planned on U.S. Trade *OW180612 Tokyo KYODO in English 0458 GMT 18 Mar 88*

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Japan will send cabinet-rank officials to Washington by the end of this month to try to settle farm and construction trade disputes with the United States, government officials said Friday. Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Takashi Sato and Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Ichiro Ozawa will leave for Washington in late March to have last-ditch talks with American officials. Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's Secretary General Shintaro Abe decided on the move in a meeting at the Diet, the officials said. Abe told reporters Takeshita accepted his proposal to work out a fresh compromise plan to provide wider access for American business firms to Japan's public works projects in order to break an impasse over the construction dispute. Abe said he also called for more government efforts to settle the beef and orange trade dispute before the current four-year agreement expires on March 31. The United States, dissatisfied with Japan's offer to open seven public works projects to U.S. participation, threatened on Wednesday to take retaliatory action against Japan unless an agreement is reached within two weeks. It is refusing to enter talks with Japan unless Tokyo sets a clear timetable for liberalizing beef and citrus imports, and has said it is prepared to file a complaint with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade over the farm trade dispute. Farm Minister Sato will leave for Washington in the last week of March after discussing the matter with Hidero Maki, director of the his ministry's Economic Affairs Bureau, who talked with American officials earlier this week. Maki is scheduled to return to Tokyo Saturday. During the talks between Maki and deputy U.S. trade negotiator Michael Smith, the United States urged Japan to take some compensatory action if it does not liberalize farm imports, the officials said. Takeshita's chief foreign policy adviser Michihiko Kunihiro will leave Saturday for Washington to negotiate over the public works projects dispute. Yoshiyasu Sato, head of the Foreign Ministry's Economic Affairs Bureau, who led a Japanese negotiating team during the previous two rounds of talks on public projects, will also visit the United States very soon, Foreign Ministry officials said. Takeshita's Deputy Chief of Staff Ichiro Ozawa will follow Kunihiro later in the month for last-minute talks with Americans to settle the construction rift, the officials said. Farm Minister Sato told a press conference that preparations are under way between Japan and the United States to pave the way for opening bilateral farm trade talks. Construction Minister Ihei Ochi, who has the main authority over public works projects, criticized the United States for threatening retaliatory measures. A stance of making mutual concessions was necessary for smooth negotiations, Ochi said. Meanwhile, the LDP's farm panel led by former Defense Agency head Koichi Kato met at the party's head office

Friday and decided the U.S. request to liberalize imports of beef and oranges should be rejected, LDP officials said. The panel confirmed its previous position to persuade the United States to accept an increase in import quotas, they said. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has announced new import quotas on beef, oranges and orange juice for the April-September term of 1988 which will apply in the absence of a new agreement to replace the present one after it expires on March 31. The ministry set import quotas for beef at 102,000 tons, up 9,000 tons from a year earlier, and for oranges at 91,000 tons and orange juice at 8,500 tons, both unchanged from a year before. On the construction market dispute, Japan has offered to allow U.S. participation in seven government-sponsored public works projects, including two involving airports—expansion of the Tokyo International Airport at Haneda in southern Tokyo and construction of a new airport in Hiroshima.

The United States is dissatisfied with the Japanese offer, which does not cover works undertaken by the private sector such as airport terminals.

'Intense Negotiations' Expected

*OW181013 Tokyo KYODO in English 0912 GMT
18 Mar 88*

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO —Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi said Friday that he hopes an agreement would be reached between Japan and the United States without damaging Japan's national interests on U.S. access to the Japanese construction market. Obuchi told reporters that Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Ichiro Ozawa will leave for Washington early next week to conduct intense negotiations with the United States in a bid to resolve the dispute and added he was uncertain how long Ozawa would remain there. Obuchi said he thinks it is time for Japan to settle the issue and that the government entrusts Ozawa with settling the dispute. As for the farm trade issue with the U.S., Obuchi said Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Takashi Sato told him that he has not been instructed by Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita to visit the U.S. to settle the dispute. Obuchi quoted Sato as saying he will make his own decision after receiving reports from Hidero Maki, director general of the ministry's Economic Affairs Bureau, who is in the U.S. to persuade the U.S. to renew negotiations for a new agreement on Japan's imports of beef and oranges. Liberal-Democratic Party Secretary General Shintaro Abe urged Takeshita Friday to send Sato to the U.S. in order to settle the farm trade issue. The U.S. is urging Japan to liberalize imports of beef and oranges and has refused to open talks on a new agreement to replace a four-year accord which expires March 31 unless Japan sets a clear timetable for import decontrols.

Australia Requests Beef Liberalization

OW181317 Tokyo KYODO in English 1219 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Australia Friday asked Japan to gradually liberalize beef imports, claiming the current Japanese beef import system sets up a distinction between the United States and Australia, Japanese officials said.

At the unofficial government-level bilateral talks in Tokyo, the Japanese delegation refused to comply with the Australian request, the officials said.

The Australian side was also very interested in the currently stalled U.S.-Japan negotiations on beef trade, the officials said.

One Australian official indicated at the meeting that Australia may bring a case before the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) if the U.S. files suit there the officials said.

Australia and Japan agreed to reopen unofficial talks at an early date next month in Australia, they added.

Official Meets With SRV Envoy on Spratlys

OW180929 Tokyo KYODO in English 0858 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Japan on Friday called Vietnam to make efforts toward achieving a peaceful settlement to a territorial dispute with China in the South China Sea, the Foreign Ministry said.

Sakutaro Tanino, deputy director of the ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, filed the request in a meeting with Vietnamese Charge d'Affaires Luong Manh Tuan, ministry officials said.

Tuan, who briefed Tanino about the March 14 fighting near the Nansha Islands or Truong Sa [Spratly] Islands as they are called in Vietnamese, was quoted as saying that a Chinese warship fired on Vietnamese freighters, causing an unidentified number of casualties.

The Vietnamese diplomat said the Chinese action threatens peace and stability in Southeast Asia and makes dialogue toward settlement of the armed conflict in Kampuchea more difficult, the Japanese officials said.

Vietnam proposed to China on Thursday that a negotiated settlement to the territorial dispute be pursued, the officials quoted Tuan as saying.

In response, Tanino told Tuan that Japan is concerned about rising tension in the area.

Japan has no position regarding which country should take control of the disputed island but wants a peaceful solution, the officials said.

PRC Reported To Reverse War Orphans Decision

OW180717 Tokyo KYODO in English 0703 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—China is to continue a program to find Japanese relatives of war-displaced people, reversing a recent decision to end the program for financial reasons, an official of Japan's Health and Welfare Ministry said Friday.

Noboru Niida, director of the ministry's Repatriation Bureau, said China will continue to cooperate in the program in fiscal 1988, beginning April 1, with regard to about 100 of the so-called "war orphans," who were left behind in northern China during confusion in the closing days of World War II. They were raised by Chinese foster parents.

China has also said it is prepared to continue the program in fiscal 1989 if there are still many such orphans, he said.

The dates for the 1988 and 1989 search programs will be discussed later by the two countries.

Niida visited Beijing from Monday through Thursday to discuss the matter with Chinese officials, and conveyed a Japanese request for China to continue the program.

The program, which began in 1981 with the support of the Japanese Government, has enabled a total of 1,588 people to visit Japan, of whom 582 have succeeded in being reunited with their relatives. The latest group of 55 war orphans returned to China Saturday after a 15-day visit.

Government To Start Third Yen Credit to PRC

OW121223 Tokyo KYODO in English 0818 GMT
12 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 12 KYODO—The Japanese Government has tentatively decided to start the third yen credit to China from 1990 by shortening the period of the second yen credit by 1 year, officials said Saturday.

The Government has also approved addition of nine projects to the second yen credit to be implemented originally from 1984 through 1990 covering seven projects worth 470 billion yen.

The additional projects, including construction of subways and sewage disposal facilities in Beijing, were made possible as it has become clear that the original 7 projects will cost 370 billion yen against the 470 billion yen estimate.

The projects will cost less because of the high value of the yen and reduction in construction costs that have occurred after the second yen credit was agreed on, the officials said.

Steel Price Raised for Exports to China

OW180755 Tokyo KYODO in English 0714 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Major Japanese steel producers will raise prices of steel to be exported to China this year by an average 25 percent, or about 80 dollars per metric ton, industry sources said Friday.

The price increase, the biggest since the first oil crisis in 1973, was negotiated by six Japanese steel mills—including Nippon Steel Corp. and Nippon Kokan K.K.—and China National Metals and Minerals Import and Export Corp. in Beijing, the sources said.

The new prices will be applied to a total of 1.9 million tons to be shipped during May and November, the sources said.

The Chinese side initially insisted on an export volume of 2.2 million tons, but the Japanese firms, stressing decreased steel production at home, agreed to increase by only 300,000 tons its original volume of 1.6 million tons, they said.

The volume compares to 2.63 million tons exported to China in the corresponding period of 1987.

An official of one of the Japanese companies said the new prices are still below those of steel exported to other countries.

Diet Mission Postpones Visit to Seoul

OW181239 Tokyo KYODO in English 1153 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—An inter-party parliamentary mission has called off a visit to South Korea since Seoul has failed to provide a Japan Socialist party member with an entry visa, mission leader Yoshio Sakurauchi said Friday.

South Korean Ambassador Yi Kyu-ho will return to South Korea Saturday for a consultation with the home government over the matter.

Yi will fly back to Tokyo Tuesday and give Sakurauchi a final reply, Sakurauchi said.

Kenjiro Kawamata, a JSP member in the House of Representatives, was scheduled to join the mission to South Korea Monday and Tuesday to observe preparations for the Seoul Olympics starting September 17 and lasting through October 2.

South Korea, however, has failed to issue a visa to Kawamata, saying it will not allow JSP Diet members to enter South Korea unless the No. 1 Japanese opposition party clearly changes its anti-Seoul position.

Sakurauchi, a former foreign minister and a Liberal-Democratic Party member in the House of Representatives, told reporters that he received Yi's telephone call Friday informing him that a visa would not be issued to Kawamata.

Yi did not discuss the reason for the decision, he said.

The mission comprises 10 Diet members from the LDP, JSP, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party. During their stay in Seoul, mission members were scheduled to meet President No Tae-u.

The JSP, which has friendly ties with North Korea, departed from a decades-long anti-Seoul stance last month in welcoming the inauguration of President No Tae-u. The party declared at that time that it will promote ties with South Korea.

Jsp leader Takako Doi also expressed her hope of visiting South Korea later this year.

The South Korean Government, however, is skeptical of the JSP's policy change, saying it still claims more evidence is necessary to blame North Korea for the November 29 loss of a Korean air jetliner with 115 people aboard, diplomatic sources here say.

Environment Pact Signed With South Korea

OW171225 Tokyo KYODO in English 0841 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 16 KYODO—Japan and South Korea concluded an agreement Wednesday on exchanges on environmental protection technology, government officials said.

The agreement, signed by the National Institute for Environmental Studies of Japan and the National Institute for Environmental Research of South Korea, aims at facilitating information exchange about environmental science technology and technological development, as well as exchange visits by experts from the two countries.

The accord was in line with the 1985 basic bilateral agreement on science and technology cooperation.

Under the new agreement, both institutes will focus in particular on the prevention of air and water pollution, the officials said.

Foreign Minister To Leave for Seoul 20 March

OW180541 Tokyo KYODO in English 0449 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno leaves for South Korea Sunday for regular consultations with his Korean counterpart Choe Kwang-su, the highest-level contact since the February 25 summit meeting between Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and President No Tae-u.

During a brief two-day stay in Seoul, Uno will also meet with No and Prime Minister Yi Hyon-chae.

Uno and Choe will use the meeting to work out concrete measures to create close bilateral relations, government sources said.

The two foreign ministers will also decide on chief members of the Japan-South Korea 21st Century Committee based on an agreement reached by Takeshita and No [at] their summit meeting held in Seoul February 25.

Japan has informally picked Ryoze Sunobe, former ambassador to Seoul, as head of the Japanese delegation to the committee, which will draw up plans for stable bilateral relations in the coming century with the help of subcommittees in such fields as economy, science and technology.

The actual topics for discussion and a date for the first meeting of the committee are expected to be set at the ministerial conference.

Uno and Choe will also finalize a list of matters to be discussed by a working-level body set up to guard against terrorist attacks on the Seoul Olympic games this summer.

In addition, Uno will offer to help pay for medical treatment for South Korean atomic-bomb victims, the sources said.

The offer represents the first such Japanese aid to be given within South Korea.

Previously the victims, who were in Hiroshima or Nagasaki when the two cities were attacked with atomic bombs during World War II, had come to Japan for treatment. That arrangement ended in December 1986.

The sources said the new offer was partly in response to a request made to Takeshita by a South Korean A-bomb survivors' association when he visited Seoul last month.

The association sought help in building a hospital for the victims.

Details of the Japanese offer are not known, but the sources said it is expected to take the form of economic assistance for medical treatment.

The South Korean Government estimates there are some 3,000 such survivors in the country, though the association puts the figure at more than 20,000.

Uno also hopes to exchange views on trade friction between newly industrializing countries (NICs), including South Korea, and Western industrialized countries.

Japan plans to play a role as a coordinator in the NICs issue, based on its recognition that the development of those countries will greatly contribute to expanding the global economy.

On South Korean diplomacy toward the communist bloc, especially China and the Soviet Union, Uno will express Japan's readiness to help bridge the gap between Seoul and Beijing, which at present do not have diplomatic relations.

North Korea

Daily Urges South To Respond to Talks Proposal
SK180333 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0007 GMT 18 Mar 88

[NODONG SINMUN 18 March commentary: "Why Does the South Side Not Reply?"]

[Text] As is known, on 8 March, the chairman of the northern side's preparatory committee for a North-South joint conference sent letters to South Korean officials, political parties, public organizations, and the people from all walks of life. These letters urged them to immediately respond to the proposal for holding a North-South joint conference.

In the letters, our side—which expresses regret for the fact that due to the unjust antialogue and antipeace attitude of South Korean officials, the proposal made at the joint meeting involving the DPRK Central People's Committee, the State Administration Council, various political parties, and public organizations to hold preliminary talks at Panmunjom on 19 February for convoking a North-South joint conference has not been realized—again proposed the holding of preliminary talks at Panmunjom on 28 March.

Our repeated proposals include the firm will, sincerity, and national magnanimity of our side to alter the situation on the Korean peninsula—which the world's people are watching—to one decisively favorable to peace, to the peaceful reunification of the nation, and to realizing national harmony and unity between the North and South by achieving a North-South joint conference at any cost.

As they highly praise our sincere and patient efforts to break through the prevailing difficult situation and to initiate a new phase for peace and peaceful reunification—by uniting the strength with the people from political and social circles in South Korea at any rate—all fellow countrymen and the unbiased international public ardently hope that the preliminary talks will be held as scheduled on the date we proposed, and that a North-South joint conference will be held at an early date.

If South Korean officials are even slightly interested in national harmony and unity, and if they desire peace and reunification, they should consider our repeated patriotic proposals, adopt a sincere attitude, and respond to them immediately.

However, the South Korean side, even up to this point, 10 days after it received our letter of 8 March, has not sent a reply. It has instead again disappointed all fellow countrymen who aspire to harmony and unity, by dashing along the path of confrontation and war.

To convert the relations of antagonism and confrontation between the North and South into those of harmony and unity, the following should be urgently resolved: the pending problems between the North and South, including the issue of ending large-scale military exercises such as the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise; realizing multinational arms reduction talks; the issue of realizing the cohosting of the Olympics by the North and South, regardless of the closing date of the application; and the issue of ending mutual slander and defamation.

Only when such problems concerning the common interest of the nation are discussed in the North-South joint conference, thus involving the participation of officials from both sides, representatives of various political parties and public organizations in the North and South, as well as people from all walks of life who represent the will and interest of all strata, can these problems be resolved smoothly and fairly according to the general will of the nation.

In view of its original objectives, the proposal to hold a North-South joint conference is a patriotic, timely, and most reasonable initiative. It corresponds to the nature of the problems that should be discussed and resolved between the North and South, and that can reflect the interest and demands of the people from all walks of life. This proposal for a just national salvation is acceptable to everyone.

This notwithstanding, from the outset, South Korean officials took a very insincere stand toward our proposal. Since the time it received our 13 January letter, the South Korean side still has not given any reply, even up to the time that the preliminary talks we had proposed had passed. Thus, the talks were not held.

We cannot but consider the attitude of the South Korean puppets as an intentional act designed to place an artificial obstacle in the way of convoking the joint conference, just as they so rudely treated the letter that cordially proposed an unbiased dialogue through a normal channel between the North and South.

As has already been exposed, the South Korean puppet clique, in a foolish attempt to block the influence of our proposal for the North-South joint conference, fabricated and announced the so-called result of the investigation of the airliner incident—which has nothing to do

with us—the day after they received our letter. The puppet clique thus frenziedly engaged in a vicious smear campaign against the Republic, thereby following the road of aggravating North-South confrontation. In response to our proposal for holding a discussion of halting large-scale military exercises, they, together with the United States, challengingly carried out the aggressive "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise.

At the same time, the puppets committed a nonsensical act by recklessly slandering our proposal for negotiations. This is a disguised offensive designed to split the opinion of the people. By carrying out this sort of counterpropaganda without even sitting face to face at the negotiating table, the South Korean puppets themselves revealed they do not possess the will to resolve the urgent national problems through dialogue with us. They also revealed that they possess the wicked scheme of using North-South dialogue as their monopoly and for their political purposes.

In view of the fact that the southern side has not made any reply to our letter of 8 March, we suspect they may again not attend the preliminary meeting. If they do not intend to come, the least they could do is to frankly say so.

Due to the dialogue-negating, antipeace-loving attitude of the South Korean persons in authority—despite our patriotic and peace-loving proposal, and in spite of our serious efforts to attain it—the misunderstanding, distrust, confrontation, and the danger of war between the North and South are increasing with each passing day. If this grave situation is left unrectified, it will be only our nation that will suffer the calamity, and it will be only the foreign forces that will benefit from it and fish in troubled waters.

The U.S. imperialists and the Japanese reactionaries, in an attempt to perpetually hold on to South Korea as their colony and military base for aggression, and to realize their wild ambition for aggression, are encouraging the South Korean puppets toward North-South confrontation and war, and are desperately opposing the reunification of our country. Now, when the destiny of the nation stands at a grave crossroads, is the time when responsible figures in Northern and Southern political and social circles provided an extensive open space for dialogue, to gather the will of all fellow countrymen into one. Whoever is truly concerned over the future and fate of the country and nation should not hesitate to come to the open space of pan-national dialogue. They should oppose and reject the splittists' maneuvers for confrontation and war, and concentrate their sincere efforts to realize our proposal for the North-South joint conference at an early date.

If they truly desire national reconciliation and peace, South Korean persons in authority should even now view the situation properly, cease the commotion of confrontation and war against us, and without delay send an affirmative reply to our repeated proposal for a

preliminary meeting for convoking the North-South joint conference. We, together with all fellow countrymen who desire peace and the reunification of the country, will keep an eye on the attitude of the South Korean persons in authority.

Further on Appeal to South

SK180509 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452 GMT*
18 Mar 88

[Text] *Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)*—The chairman of the preparatory committee of the North side for a North-Soviet joint conference on March 8 sent a letter to South Korean authorities, political parties, public organizations and people of different social standings, proposing again to hold a preliminary meeting for the convocation of a North-South joint conference at Panmunjom on March 28.

NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today condemn the South Korean side for failing to make a reply though ten days have passed since it received our letter dated March 8 and persisting in following that road of confrontation and war and thus disappointing again the entire fellow countrymen desirous of reconciliation and unity.

NODONG SINMUN says in a signed commentary:

It seems that the South Korean side is not willing to come to the preliminary meeting this time, either, for it has not made a reply so far. If it is not willing to come out, it has to say frankly that it will not come.

We put forward a patriotic peace proposal and have made sincere efforts to put it into effect. However, the misunderstanding, distrust and confrontation between the North and the South and the danger of war are gaining in scope with each passing day due to the South Korean authorities' opposition to dialogue and peace. If this grave situation goes on, our nation will suffer and the foreign forces will benefit and fish in troubled waters.

Whoever is truly concerned about the future of the country and the nation must not hesitate to join in the nation-wide dialogue but reject the separatists' moves of confrontation and war and make sincere efforts to put our proposal for the convocation of a North-South joint conference into a reality at an early date.

If the South Korean authorities truly want national reconciliation and peace, they must look straight at the situation and discontinue the campaign of confrontation and war against the North and immediately make an affirmative reply to our repeated proposal for holding a preliminary meeting for the convocation of a North-South joint conference.

Meanwhile, MINJU CHOSON in a signed commentary warns that should the South Korean authorities persistently pursue confrontation and war, doggedly rejecting

the North's proposal for North-South joint conference in contravention of the desire of the whole nation they will be held wholly responsible for all the ensuing consequences.

South 'Puppet Army' Holds 'War Rehearsal'

SK180437 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423 GMT*
18 Mar 88

[Text] *Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)*—The South Korean military fascist clique at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists are holding war rehearsals every day as part of the criminal "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises, according to a report.

The fascist clique on March 16 staged a provocative military exercise called "the fourth combined exercise of chemical, biological and radioactive warfare" at a unit of the puppet army.

On the same day the clique held a military exercise called "demonstration of field transport operation for full support to rehearsal" at another unit of the puppet army allegedly for "guarantee of manoeuvrability."

Earlier, the puppets had staged "field mobile exercise for a chemical warfare," "demonstration of camouflage tactics," "demonstration of a model battle" and other military exercises.

These military exercises show that the No Tae-u military gang's war provocation moves against the northern half of Korea have reached a grave stage.

Rallies Denounce 'Rehearsal'

SK171530 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511 GMT*
17 Mar 88

[Text] *Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)*—Rallies are being held in different parts of Korea to denounce the "Team Spirit 88" joint military rehearsal.

The farmers of the Sosamjong cooperative farm, Yokpo District, Pyongyang, and the state-run Pyongyang fruit farm and students of Pyongyang University of Machine and Pyongyang University of Commerce held rallies to vehemently condemn the desperate war exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets to inflict nuclear holocaust upon our people.

Nobody knows when the "Team Spirit 88" nuclear military rehearsal develops into a war as it is a play with fire by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets at the stage of having completed their preparations for a war against the North, said the speakers at the rallies. We can never be off our guard, they stressed, and stated:

History and the people will never pardon the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets for laying grave obstacles in the way of peace on the Korean peninsula and its peaceful reunification.

Japan's Stockpiling of 'War Supplies' Condemned
SK180435 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0420 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—It has recently been brought to light that the U.S. imperialists have large quantities of war supplies stockpiled in Japan at all times in order to transfer them to their aggression forces in South Korea and the puppet army in case of "emergency" on the Korean peninsula.

A recent issue of the Japanese YOMIURI SHIMBUN quoted a "secret official document" which an opposition party of Japan obtained from the U.S. forces command in Kanakawa Prefecture as saying that the U.S. forces in Japan "have stockpiled 10,000 tons of military hardware which would be promptly supplied to the Eighth U.S. Army and the South Korean Army in case of emergency."

This is another patent proof that the Japanese territory has turned into a logistics, sortie and supply base for a war in Korea and the U.S.-Japan-South Korea tripartite military alliance is in action.

The U.S. imperialists and the Japanese reactionaries plan to conclude a new military agreement on stockpiling U.S.-brand war supplies in Japan in advance under the cloak of "joint defence" and mobilizing Japanese planes and ships for a prompt transport of all types of war supplies in case they unleash a war in Korea.

KCNA Criticizes Chon Tu-hwan U.S. Visit
SK181036 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—The traitor Chon Tu-hwan will make a three-week "unofficial" visit to the United States from March 22 on the "invitation" of his master, U.S. imperialism, according to a report.

It is unbecoming that the U.S. masters "invited" the stooge whom they had used as a watch-dog and then dismissed. It is all the more so that the traitor is visiting the United States in the capacity of "chairman of the elders advisory council on state affairs."

Now the South Korean people strongly demand that Chon Tu-hwan, the traitor and fascist murderer, be punished.

The U.S. imperialists who patronized and backed Chon Tu-hwan try to let him take refuge and save their face while the latter intends to take this as a good occasion of hastening preparations for overseas asylum.

As part of his preparations for his flight overseas, Chon Tu-hwan bought a luxurious house with 20-odd rooms in New York for 20 million-23 million dollars in October last year, and purchased two de luxe planes from the United States and keeps them ready in a military airfield near Seoul.

Facts show that the traitor's trip to the U.S. is one for preparations for asylum; he intends to talk with his U.S. imperialist master about a way of saving his dirty life and go round his shelter there.

CPRF Scores South Police Head's Release
SK181026 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u group which released the former chief of the South Korean puppet police headquarters who directly organized and executed the torture-death of student Pak Chong-chol will not be able to go scot-free, declares the secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] in its information No. 447 dated March 17.

The information says:

The No Tae-u group had attempted to conceal the crime of Kang Min-chang, former chief of the puppet police headquarters, who brutally killed Pak Chong-chol through torture last year and then manipulated the fabrication of a false cause of his death. But, the group held a "trial" of him on March 12, unable to challenge the people's demand.

At the trial, the No Tae-u group, far from sentencing Kang Min-chang to capital punishment, handed down a light "verdict" of eight months in prison and one year of disqualification, which cannot be considered a punishment for a crime of murder.

However, the No Tae-u group set him free 56 days after detention on "probation" claiming that it would be too severe to impose a proper imprisonment on him because he had worked long as firstline police and taken the lead in "maintenance of public peace" as supreme chief of police and the incident of the death of Pak Chong-chol took place just before his retirement as "chief of the police headquarters."

By releasing Kang Min-chang this time, the traitor No Tae-u revealed his intention to continue fascist suppression and murder.

The South Korean students and people will never pardon the criminal act of the No Tae-u group which patronized and released a fascist murderer.

Soviet Ship's Crew Sends Letter to Kim Chong-il
SK180447 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0431 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—The crewmen of the Soviet ship "Baimak" had a meeting at Hungnam port to denounce "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique and sent a solidarity letter to dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The letter dated March 3 said that the bonds of friendship which was arranged by most respected Comrade Kim Il-song and is being boosted by dear Comrade Kim Chong-il are further consolidated by the common efforts of the peoples of our two countries.

The letter went on: We regard the proposals put forward by the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as most just ones, firmly support the proposal for independent and peaceful reunification of Korea and scathingly denounce the provocative military exercises and KAL incident and scheme to host 24th Olympics single handedly in Seoul.

The letter sincerely wished Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and long life.

Kim Chong-il Replies to Birthday Messages
SK150427 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421 GMT
15 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 15 (KCNA)—Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il sent messages to Sam Nujoma, president of the South West Africa People's Organisation, Phichai Rattakun, president of the Democratic Party of Thailand, and Vassos Lyssarides, chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Cyprus, in reply to their messages of greetings sent to him on his birthday.

In the reply messages he expressed deep thanks to them for their warm congratulations and good wishes extended to him on his birthday and wholeheartedly wished them greater successes in their responsible work.

Officials Attend Soviet Fete Marking Treaty
SK180459 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—Soviet Ambassador to Korea Gennadiy Bartoshevich on the evening of March 17 arranged a film show and cocktail party at his embassy on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the conclusion of the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between Korea and the Soviet Union. Present there on invitation were Kim Yong-chae, minister of post and tele-communications and chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society; Yi Mong-ho, chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries; Kwon Min-chun, vice-director of a department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea; Kim Chae-suk, vice-minister of foreign affairs; Song Hui-chol, vice-minister of foreign trade; Kim Song-hwan, vice-minister of external economic affairs; Kim Chang-kuk, vice-minister of culture and art; Yi Pong-hu, vice-chairman of the Radio and TV Broadcasting Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society, and other officials concerned. Soviet Embassy officials were present there. The participants first appreciated a Soviet film. Then a cocktail party was given.

At the party which proceeded in a friendly atmosphere speeches were exchanged. Meanwhile, a film show was held on March 17 at the Consulate General of the Soviet Union in Chongjin on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of the conclusion of the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between Korea and the Soviet Union.

O Chin-u Sends Message to Mongolian Counterpart
SK180419 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0411 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—Vice Marshal of the Korean People's Army O Chin-U, minister of People's Armed Forces, sent a message of greetings to Colonel General J. Yondon, minister of defence of the Mongolian People's Republic, on the occasion of the 67th anniversary of the founding of the Mongolian People's Army.

The Mongolian People's Army is reliably defending the creative labour of the Mongolian people to turn their country into a socialist industrial and agricultural state in the near future by thoroughly carrying out the decisions of the 19th Congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and accelerating the fulfilment of the 8th Five-Year Plan for economic development, the message said.

The message expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples and armies would grow stronger and develop in the future.

Kim Yong-nam, YAR Counterpart Mark Ties
SK150437 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0427 GMT
15 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 15 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-nam, vice-premier and foreign minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], exchanged messages of greetings on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The messages expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries would grow stronger and develop in the future.

Yang Hyong-sop Sends Message to Syrian Official
SK180427 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0414 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—Yang Hyong-Sop, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly sent a message of greetings to 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah on his election as president of the People's Council of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Expressing the belief that the good friendly and cooperative relations existing between the two peoples and the People's Assembly and the People's Council will grow

stronger and develop in the future, the message sincerely wished him success in his responsible work for the progress and prosperity of the country.

Cuba Publishers Mark Meeting of Leaders
SK180431 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0417 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Havana March 17 (KCNA)—The political publishing house of the Communist Party of Cuba brought out the book "Cuba-Korea, Historic Meeting" on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Korea visit of Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

Printed in the book are the picture of Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, pictures of the two state leaders waving to the enthusiastically cheering crowds at the airport and along the streets and pictures of them going round different places of Pyongyang.

The book contains the speeches of Comrade Kim Il-song at a banquet and a Pyongyang mass rally welcoming the Cuban party and government delegation led by Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz and speeches of Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz at the banquet and the rally.

KCNA Reports Progress of 200-Day Campaign
SK181014 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT
18 Mar 88

["Economic Briefs"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—In recent 20-odd days of the 200-day campaign the Hwanghae iron and steel complex increased the production of steel and pig iron more than 1.5 times and that of rolled steel 1.3 times over the corresponding period before.

The complex has lengthened the active life of the ceiling of open hearths and drastically cut steel-making time through technical innovations. It also lifted the temperature of hot blast at furnaces, increased rounds of tapping and decreased the fuel consumption of furnaces. It tapped internal reserves of rollers and boosted production 1.3-1.5 times.

In recent 10 days ore mines and enterprises under the general bureau of the Tanchon District mining industry increased the production of major non-ferrous metal ores by 18 percent on a daily average as against the same period of last month.

The workers of the Komdok general mining enterprise are constantly expanding ore mining and dressing to double this year non-ferrous metal ore production over last year.

People To Display 'Stamina'

SK171008 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1001 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—The working people in North Hamgyong Province and Yanggang Province in the northern part of Korea held mass rallies and resolved to display the revolutionary stamina of chuche Korea through a vigorous 200-Day Campaign in hearty response to the letter and calls of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The reporter and speakers at the North Hamgyong provincial mass rally said that it is an honorable and worthwhile task of our entire party members and working people to turn out in the 200-day campaign to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a grand festival of victors.

They stressed the need to concentrate efforts on the second-stage expansion project of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, the third-stage project of the March 17 power station, the expansion project of the Musan mining complex and the construction of coal mines in the northern area during the 200-Day Campaign and make an all-out charge and unconditionally ensure the completion of these projects as defined by the party.

They called for making energetic efforts to keep the production on a high level in all sectors of the national economy including the key industries in the province.

The reporter and speakers at the Yanggang provincial mass rally stressed the need to increase the production capacities at mines in the province, accelerate the development of new mines, boost the production of minerals and effect innovation in the timber production.

'Big' Efforts Made To Electrify Railways
SK171526 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1500 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—Korea directs big efforts to the electrification of railways. Recently, the Hongui-Haksong, Changhung-Yonhung and other sections have been electrified.

In the current dynamic 200-Day Campaign the railway workers, in hearty response to the militant calls of the Workers' Party of Korea, are working hard to complete the electrification of the Paekam-Tonae, Pukchang-Myonghak and other sections which are yet to be switched over to electric traction.

In Korea the electrification of railways has entered the stage of completion, the traction by electric locomotives in freight haulage has already surpassed the 89 percent mark.

The great leader President Kim Il-song has taught:

"If we electrify the railways we shall be able to increase their transport and traffic capacity and carry more goods."

President Kim Il-song defined railway electrification as the main direction of the development of railway transport and put forward the policy of switching over to electric traction, first of all, in sections of sharp slope and main trunk lines.

He visited the Kim Chong-tae electric locomotive complex (then Pyongyang railway factory) in November 1945 and unfolded a far-reaching plan of railway electrification.

On several occasions, he set forth the tasks for electrifying the Yangdok-Chonsong and the Myongmun-Koin sections which are sharp in gradient and have many tunnels. He also sent work force, materials and fund so that the projects could be carried out in a short period. As a result, nearly 100 kilometres of railways were switched over to electric traction in 70 days.

He, directing deep attention to the electrification of railways, recalled officers and men of the People's Army from the front during the Fatherland Liberation War and sent them to various universities to train them to be technicians in this sector.

The switchover to electric traction made a fast progress in the postwar period.

He called at sites of railway electrification including the Yangdok District several times and indicated the orientation and ways for the projects.

Saying that Korea which abounds in power resources should head for the electrification of the railroads throughout the country in the future, he visited the West Pyongyang railway factory and assigned the workers there the task to manufacture an electric locomotive.

Upholding this militant task, the workers there built the first electric locomotive by their own efforts in 1961.

He saw this electric locomotive, highly estimated their success and personally named it "Bulgungi" (Red Flag).

Electrification of railways went ahead at full speed along with the production of electric locomotives. Railway lines extending nearly 1,000 kilometres including the Pyongyang-Chongjin and Pyongyang-Sinuiju sections were switched over to electric traction during the five-year plan and the First Seven-Year Plan. As a result, the electrification of the trunk lines of the country was completed in the main in this period.

About 2,000 kilometres including the Chongjin-Najin and Kilchu-Hyesan sections were switched over to electric traction in the period of the six-year plan and the Second Seven-Year Plan to bring the proportion of haulage by electric locomotives up to 88.3 percent.

Korea will complete the electrification of railways in the country in the period of a new long-term plan (1987- 1993).

In this period the volume of freight turnover by rails will increase 1.6 times.

Meeting Marks Founding of Central TV Station
SK180453 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0435 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—A meeting to mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Korean central TV broadcasting was held on March 17 on the spot.

A congratulatory message of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to the entire staff of the general TV bureau of the Radio and TV Broadcasting Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was read out at the meeting.

The message said: Our party took the historic measure to found the Korean central TV broadcasting which would play an important role on the party's ideological front on March 3, 1963, under the far-reaching plan of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

Since the founding the Korean central TV broadcasting has honorably discharged its lofty mission and duty over the past 25 years under the wise guidance of the party and the leader.

Saying that the history of the TV broadcasting shines more brilliantly thanks to our party, Chu Hyon-ok, chairman of the Radio and TV Broadcasting Committee of the DPRK, stressed in his report that dear Comrade Kim Chong-il indicated the road ahead of the TV broadcasting and has energetically directed it.

A letter of pledge to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was adopted at the meeting.

South Korea

O Cha-pok Warns North of 'Retaliatory' Response
SK181046 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
18 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] In referring to the midair terrorist explosion of Korean Air Flight 858 that was perpetrated by puppet North Korea, on 18 March, National Defense Minister O Cha-pok declared: "If puppet North Korea perpetrates a similar incident in the future, our side, in considering this to be a declaration of war against us, will offer a powerful retaliatory response."

After stating this at a meeting with reporters covering the National Defense Ministry that morning, Minister O said: "If puppet North Korea carries out various provocations due to its miscalculations, it will be crushed at an early stage by our operational units, which have been trained and prepared in advance." After noting that

some elements of the Military Duty Regulation are incompatible with the trend of the new era, Minister O also stated that they would be revised.

Cuba Said 'Likely' To Participate in Olympics
SK181018 Seoul YONHAP in English 1002 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Budapest, Hungary, March 18 (YONHAP)—Cuba is likely to announce its participation in the 1988 Seoul Olympics in May or June and some other countries including Nicaragua may be willing to reverse their earlier decision not to attend it, some senior Hungarian officials said.

Tomas Ajan, vice minister of the Hungarian Sports Ministry and secretary-general of the International Weightlifting Federation, said that he had the impression in recent contacts with Cuban sports officials that Cuba was certain to attend the Seoul Olympics.

Similar remarks were made by Lajos Pietsch, a senior official in charge of international affairs at the HUNGARIAN NEWS AGENCY (M.T.I.), who said that he had been told by senior Cuban sports officials that Cuba would announce its participation in the 1988 summer Olympics in May or June. Pietsch said he met some senior Cuban sports officials during his recent visit to Havana.

A record 161 nations have notified the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that they will attend the 24th Olympiad slated for Seoul from Sept. 17-Oct. 2, marking the first boycott-free Olympics in 16 years. The six nations that failed to meet the Jan. 17 deadline for submitting the official application among the 167 IOC members are Albania, Cuba, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, the Seychelles and North Korea.

Pietsch said that Cuba appears only to be postponing the announcement of its decision, adding that Cuba is unlikely to boycott the Olympiad. Cuba boycotted the 1984 Los Angeles games as it sided with the Soviet Union in retaliation for the earlier boycott of the 1980 Moscow games by the United States which protested the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The Hungarian journalist, however, ruled out the possibility that North Korea would participate in the Seoul Olympics, on grounds that Pyongyang has adopted a different rationale from that of other socialist countries. North Korea, which has threatened to boycott the Seoul games unless its demands are met, has demanded that it be made a co-host of the Olympics and be allowed to host, on its territory, more sports than the five proposed by the IOC.

Meanwhile, a coach of the Cuban weightlifting team who came here to attend the 15th Pannonia men's international tournament held here from March 11-13, said that a large segment of Cuban athletes and sports officials are very anxious to compete in the Seoul Olympics.

South Korea participated in a one-day international women's weightlifting competition held here on March 11.

DJP Plan To Drop 'Influential' Figures Noted
SK180139 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
18 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] Kwon Ik-hyon and Kwon Chong-tal both key figures of the Democratic Justice Party during the period of the just ended Chon Tu-hwan government, will not be granted parliamentary nominations in what observers describe as a contest between the "old and new streams" in the ruling camp.

DJP chairman Chae Mun-sik strongly hinted at their dropping from a list of DJP candidates after a talk with President No Tae-u in which they finalized it late last night.

The list will be bared today following a formal approval by the Central Executive Council, the party's top decision-making body. Hot debates are expected as several council members will be excluded from candidacy.

Kwon Ik-hyon, Chon's and President No Tae-u's old classmate at the Korea Military Academy, is a standing advisor to the party leader, No, yet is usually billed as more closer to the just-retired president.

Kwon Chong-tal played a pivotal role in founding the party early in 1981 and served as the first-term secretary general.

Chon's brother-in-law, Kim Sang-ku, will be among about 30 incumbents who fail to get renominations.

The ex-president's senior political secretary, Ho Hwa-pyong, Ho Mun-to, and spokesman Choe Chae-uk have given up on candidacies or are slated to be denied a listing on the DJP ticket.

In a move to place the government party, and possibly the National Assembly, under No's complete control, a 10-member screening committee may deprive Yi Chong-chan of candidacy, according to the sources.

Yi Chan-hyok, the DJP's Seoul municipal branch head, and outspoken politician, Pong Tu-wan, will also apparently not get DJP nominations. Both used to stand beside Yi Chong-chan, called a "new leader."

The two Kwons and Yi will be the most prominent leaders of factions, whose formation is to be allowed in the hitherto one man-ruled part, as pledged by No in his vow to let the DJP choose the next presidential standard-bearer in a free convention.

If influential DJP lawmakers are driven out of the party, the DJP will be plunged into serious trouble.

Sporadic protests by followers of some dropouts in front of headquarters foreshadow massive defections of party members in provincial areas, the observers said.

Yesterday alone, a considerable number of groups supporting incumbent parliamentarians, reported dropped from the DJP ticket, waged protests at the DJP head office.

Other DJP Figures Dropped

SK180233 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
18 Mar 88 p 2

[From the "Out and About" column: "Influential Figure's Fate"]

[Text] Citing Kwon Chong-tal and Pong Tu-wan's drop from nomination for the April elections, DJP lawmakers yesterday expressed concern about the fate of Yi Chong-chan.

Both Kwon and Pong were known as close allies of Yi who had been regarded as one of the most influential figures in the party with Kwon.

A DJP lawmaker quipped, "Yi was simply emasculated with Pong and Kwon's exclusion."

Yi who once wielded immense influence in the ruling party as the party's floor-leader, the No. 4 position in the party's hierarchy, is reported to have been nominated to run on his home turf of Seoul's Chongno district, widely billed as Korea's No. 1 political venue.

Others said that he was unlikely to be given an important position again in view of developments unfavorable to him.

YONHAP Views No's 'Strategy'

SK180941 Seoul YONHAP in English 0927 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Justice Party's selection of parliamentary candidates Friday reflected President No Tae-u's determination to consolidate his leadership in the ruling party and strengthen his foothold for governing the Sixth Republic by replacing many key members of the Fifth Republic with new faces.

The governing party Friday announced a list of 219 candidates for the general elections to be held in late April. Candidates for five of the 224 constituencies have not yet been selected.

A large number of new faces were nominated while 28 incumbent lawmakers failed to gain nomination. Among the incumbent lawmakers excluded from the list were former party chairman Kwon Ik-hyon, a former military academy classmate of former President Chon Tu-hwan.

Also set aside were former party secretaries-general Chong Sok-mo, Kwon Chong-tal and Kim Sang-ku. What is particularly notable is the failure to nominate Kwon, who, as a close protege of Chon, played a key role in organizing the party at the earlier stage of the Fifth Republic. Kim is Chon's brother-in-law.

Sources say that the selection work has been orchestrated largely by none other than President No Tae-u.

Political observers say that, by excluding individuals symbolizing the Fifth Republic from nomination, No may be trying to improve the image of his government in order to gain more popularity among the voters with regard to the National Assembly elections slated for next month.

The observers also say that No's long-term strategy is to consolidate his leadership inside the ruling party. They observe that No would be carrying a substantial burden should the Kwons or Kim as well as other key officials of the Fifth Republic remain in the party's front ranks.

In this context, the nomination of candidates was a clear indication of No's determination to lead the politics of the new era with new individuals.

The replacement of 28 incumbent lawmakers is seen as a major reorganization of the ruling party considering that the number of constituencies increased from 92 to 224. New individuals were named in 125 of the 224 districts.

More than 90 percent of the 219 candidates are in their 40's and 50's—64 candidates (29.2 percent) are in their 40's and 136 (62.1 percent) are in their 50's. Those between the age of 30 and 45 accounted for 10.3 percent.

Those nominated include 80 lawmakers (36.5 percent), 47 former or incumbent ranking government officials (21.5 percent), 30 businessmen, 13 from education circles and eight journalists.

Although the nominees were selected from almost all sectors of society, 23 are graduates of the Korea Military Academy, which observers say might damage No's election commitment to realize an era of civilian-oriented politics.

Further on Kim Tae-Chung's Resignation

Act Presages 'Fierce' Election

SK180103 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
18 Mar 88 p 2

["News Analysis" column by staff reporter Yi Song-yol: "Kim Tae-chung About Face Comes Under 'Public Pressure'"]

[Text] Kim Tae-chung's resignation yesterday as president of the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] in fact improves prospects for an opposition reunify, setting the stage for a fierce parliamentary election battle between the ruling and opposition parties.

Kim's aboutface to yield to the pressure to withdraw to a political back seat was apparently made in recognition of the crisis within the opposition, especially the PPD, and the fact that the opposition forces would likely be reduced to mere splinter groups if they faced the election without integration. And his aboutface came also from a prediction that the responsibility for a miserable defeat of the opposition would mostly go to Kim Tae-chung's PPD.

Since the opposition defeat in the Dec. 16 presidential election, Kim has been pressured by public opinion to follow the example of Kim Yong-sam, who resigned on Feb. 8 as president of the Reunification Democratic Party, to help reunite the opposition.

Kim, however, made clear his rejection of the pressure at a press conference last Wednesday, leading to a collapse of bipartisan talks for a merger.

Kim insisted that he and the other Kim jointly lead the opposition to "win" the coming parliamentary election.

He opposed a mere withdrawal and a mere reunity with the RDP, as it would be as good as confessing that his bolting the RDP last November and founding the PPD was but designed to meet his ambition to run in the presidential election.

Whatever his logic, Kim has ever been the target of public criticism and regarded as a major obstacle to the opposition integration.

Amid the aggravated situation involving Kim Tae-chung, Kim Yong-sam pushed a "partial merger" with several independent lawmakers, the yet-to-be-formed Hangyora Democratic Party and dissident figures.

Several PPD lawmakers who are to run in Seoul recently moved to bolt to join Kim Yong-sam's partially merged new opposition, claiming the PPD would be faced with a "disastrous culmination" in the election if it makes itself look opposed to the opposition integration.

In addition, some of the former dissident figures who early last month joined the PPD also urged Kim Tae-chung to make a "grave decision," saying "we cannot let things go on like this."

Extraordinarily, a student group has recently visited both Kims and urged them to unite unconditionally, warning the opposition would collapse if fractured.

Pressured from within and without, and well conscious that a partial merger spearheaded by Kim Yong-sam would mean a serious political blow and isolation of himself, Kim came to change his mind after eight days, "lest the opposition lose the last chance of unity."

That was shortly after Kim found himself widely dubbed as the biggest obstacle to the opposition's reunity, and its fate.

He knew, however, why the RDP and some other opposition groups demanded his withdrawal from the opposition leadership, upon Kim Yong-sam's resignation.

With his declaration of withdrawal, the opposition parties are to have the third, and the last, round of merger talks, possibly beginning today.

The RDP and the PPD previously had twice tried talks for a merger in vain.

The first talks began shortly after Kim Yong-sam resigned as the RDP president in early February, but the negotiations proved a failure as the PPD demanded that the RDP accept a single-member parliamentary election format.

The second round of merger talks started Feb. 23 when Kim Yong-sam accepted a one-seat-per-district election format. But the talks also collapsed as Kim Tae-chung refused to resign and instead proposed both Kims jointly lead a new unified opposition party to be formed by merging the two parties.

Now the RDP, however, seems not so joyous about Kim Tae-chung's resignation and instead rather tired of resuming talks with the PPD.

Many RDP lawmakers already predict that for a merger they have to solve the difficult problem of how to share nomination rights for the parliamentary candidates between the parties involved.

Some RDP lawmakers even say that Kim Tae-chung's joining them would have an adverse effect on their campaigning as his popular image has been so aggravated.

But the few complaints expected in the course of the integration are not likely to have much impact on the principle of reunity itself.

Now attention is paid to how the RDP will respond, and if the opposition succeeds in unity this time, then the coming election will be quite different from what had previously been predicted, compelling the ruling party to modify its previous election strategies.

Kim Tae-chung Said in 'Hiding'

SK180119 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
18 Mar 88 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: "Kim's Hiding"]

[Text] Kim Tae-chung and his wife hid themselves at an unidentified place Wednesday night after telling his aides of his decision to resign.

His aides said Kim let PPD vice president Pak Yong-suk read his resignation statement because his health is not good.

Some key post holders hurriedly arrived at Kim Tae-chung's house in the morning to meet him but they found Kim was not there.

An aide said Kim is staying in a Seoul house and he expects Kim will not show up until Sunday.

Aides said Kim has had several nerve-wracking and agonizing days as public criticism mounted against him for allegedly blocking the merger by seeking to stay in power.

Some of Kim Tae-chung's followers and loyalists hurriedly reached the PPD head office where the press conference was held early in the morning.

Some of them shouted, "Why should Mr. Kim resign?" and "Why did he resign without even hearing the will of party members?"

One PPD member shouted in tears, "Our party should not be like this just at the whim of a few key post holders!"

Kim's house and the PPD head office were also flooded with telephone calls from citizens, with a mixture of complaint and encouragement.

Paper Views Resignation

SK180047 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
18 mar 88 p 8

[Editorial: "Last-Minute Merger Attempt"]

[Text] The zigzagging attempts at a grand opposition merger have taken another twist with the announcement that Kim Tae-chung has resigned as president of the Party for Peace and Democracy. Will a new attempt be successful this time? Is Kim really sincerely resigning?

Suspicion is linked with the fact that the announcement was not made by Kim himself but a party woman vice president because Kim was supposedly ill. Is he so seriously sick to be unable to appear at a press conference? Kim should have clarified himself by delivering this important political announcement himself.

It may be too far to assert that Kim has left room for a reversal or denial of the announcement because he did not do it personally. Kim should know that the announcement by proxy is not enough to convince the people and his rival politicians of his stepdown from the responsible party post. This is especially so, seeing that his resignation has not been accepted as there is no specified party procedure to handle resignations.

Kim's awkward gesture came after mounting criticism of his obstinacy on the party leadership question that has served as a main stumbling block to a merger. Notably, his step has been compelled perhaps by the successful

merger talks between the main opposition Reunification Democratic Party and Hangyora Democratic Party and a group of independent lawmakers.

The merger agreement, without doubt, has dealt a fatal blow to Kim Tae-chung's party, putting Kim and his aides on the horns of a dilemma. For their political survival they might have reached the conclusion that Kim's resignation was the best way to handle the situation. Although Kim's action comes somewhat too late, it may help him avoid the worst, that is, a dishonorable discharge from the political world when his party is degraded into a provincial or splinter party through the forthcoming general elections.

However, if Kim's resignation is not a sincere and effective bid for compromise, the opposition camp will be led into ever more serious disarray than it is in now. Therefore, the opposition camp should question the motives for Kim's resignation. The general public, meanwhile, is advised not to jump at a hasty optimism lest they should be betrayed by the machinations of a politician.

RDP Seeks Merger Before Talks

SK180159 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
18 Mar 88 pp 1, 2

[Text] Kim Tae-chung's "unconditional" resignation as president of the PPD yesterday revived hopes for unifying the opposition.

Kim said he decided to resign because it is the last chance to unify the opposition before the general elections.

His resignation removes the most formidable obstacle to integrating the opposition and negotiations among opposition forces will resume today.

But the Reunification Democratic Party is determined to achieve "partial" integration with the Hangyora Democratic Party and other minor opposition groups before resuming negotiations with the PPD.

Kim said in a statement, "Now the opposition stands at the crossroads of either unification or division. I resign not to let the last chance for unification slip away."

His statement was read by PPD vice president Pak Yong-suk, who said Kim was absent because of illness.

Recalling that since January he has promised to resign after the unification of the RDP, PPD and an extraparlimentary dissident group, Kim said, "But I decided to bow out (before the merger) because the merger partners have been insisting on resignation first, then unification."

Kim claimed his insistence on merger first and resignation second was intended to counter a plot to hinder opposition unification and drag him down from the PPD presidency.

He asked his party members to understand his action and to cooperate for an opposition victory in the upcoming general elections.

"I will do whatever is in my capacity and stand in the front line to help the opposition win a victory in the coming elections," Kim said.

Kim, to be succeeded by Pak, is resting at an unknown place in Seoul.

After reading Kim's statement, Pak said negotiations between the RDP and PPD could resume immediately. She pointed out that the two parties have already formed an authorized organ to carry out the merger.

The party has decided to reopen talks with the RDP and appointed Mun Tong-hwan and Cho Se-hyong representatives for the negotiations.

But the RDP, which clearly gained an upper hand in the unification issue, will pursue partial unification with minor opposition groups first before sitting down for talks again with the PPD.

The party is still suspicious of Kim Tae-chung and the PPD, and appears to put more weight on the partial integration than on merging with the PPD.

The RDP is to map out its position concerning the merger issue today at a joint meeting of the party leadership and negotiators who have been secretly promoting contacts with the Hangyora Democratic Party, minor opposition groups and the PPD.

Meanwhile, the Hangyora party welcomed Kim Tae-chung's decision to resign and urged the RDP and PPD to immediately resume negotiations for a three-party unification.

But this minor opposition party is likely to comply with the RDP request to achieve a partial unification as its leaders, including Che Chong-ku and Rep. Cho Sun-hyong, strongly support it.

The splinter group of independent lawmakers, who were scheduled to enter the RDP yesterday, also say the proposed partial unification should be achieved before letting in the PPD.

Thus, the RDP is expected to take a lukewarm attitude on merging with the PPD while pushing vigorously for absorbing other opposition groups into its fold.

But the party yesterday named Kim Chae-kwang and Kim Su-hwan representatives in negotiations with the PPD.

The RDP intends to move toward the merger only after it can fully confirm the "real" motivation for Kim Tae-chung's resignation.

Meanwhile, negotiators from the RDP, the PPD, the Hangyora and the independent lawmakers last night had an unofficial meeting but failed to reach any concrete agreement on preconditions of the opposition merger. They are to meet again today.

In another development, three opposition lawmakers and a former leading legislator are to join the RDP today.

They are Reps. Pak Chan-chong, Yi Chol, Chang Ki-uk and former PPD vice president Yang Sun-chik.

Their joining the RDP was agreed on at a meeting attended by eight RDP negotiators and Reps. Yi and Chang at a restaurant yesterday.

At the meeting, they agreed to continue talks with the PPD and the Hangyora to achieve a unified opposition.

Merger Prospects 'Unclear'

SK180107 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
18 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] Prospects for an eventual integration of the two major opposition parties still remain unclear despite the resignation of Kim Tae-chung from the leadership of the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD].

The status of the PPD president had been the bone of contention preventing a merger between the PPD, its rival Reunification Democratic Party and the nascent "Hangyora" Democratic Party.

The rival parties still show sharp differences over detailed steps for the merger between them such as the type of leadership and power sharing in the new unified party.

In addition, the RDP suspects the "real motive" of the PPD president in announcing his resignation from the PPD leadership through his deputy, vice president Mrs. Pak Yong-suk without showing up at the press conference.

Several RDP members regarded Kim's resignation from the PPD leadership as a desperate move to foil the merger between the RDP, the embryonic Hangyora party and independent lawmakers rather than a sincere effort to realize the "grand opposition integration."

The RDP, the Hangyora party and four independent lawmakers agreed Wednesday, in principle, to the merger between them excluding the PPD.

But the RDP and the two other groups postponed announcing their merger in a meeting of their negotiators at the request of the PPD, to watch the actions of the PPD and its leader Kim Tae-chung.

The PPD side relayed its hope to participate in the merger through the representatives of the Hangyora party to the RDP side.

Political observers said that the announcement by the die-hard opposition leader to withdraw from the PPD leadership may have stemmed from a sense of crisis prevailing among the senior members of the PPD, particularly incumbent lawmakers and those who seek parliamentary candidacy in the Seoul districts.

The PPD president has presented himself as the target of criticism for his failure in the month-long efforts to realize the grand opposition integration in the face of the April parliamentary elections after the adoption of the small parliamentary districts.

Kim clarified in his press conference on Mar. 9 that he would not step down from the opposition leadership until after the forthcoming general elections.

His refusal to withdraw from the PPD leadership made the RDP declare a formal end to the integration efforts.

Since then, the rival parties have been separately preparing for the general elections, embarking upon their work of screening parliamentary candidates for nomination.

In the meantime, the RDP succeeded in realizing a merger with the Hangyora party, four independent lawmakers and some dissident figures through the week-long behind-the-scenes negotiations.

The RDP ensured the three groups half of the parliamentary nominations in the districts of Seoul and other major cities, along with the modification of the party platform after the general elections.

In the process, Kim Yong-sam, de facto leader of the RDP, called upon his followers to make wide concessions to realize a merger with the minor opposition groups.

Aware of mounting sentiment against his rival Kim Tae-chung, former RDP president Kim must have targeted at the isolation of the PPD and its leader.

Amid the prevailing sense of crisis in the PPD, several senior PPD members such as former vice presidents No Sung-hwan, Yi Yong-hui and Yi Chung-chae threatened to leave the party to join the RDP.

Mun Ik-hwan and several new entrants joined in urging the PPD leader to make a grave decision to break through the political situation.

Now, judging that it has gained the upper hand against the PPD, the RDP is certain to take a high-handed stance in negotiating for a merger with the PPD again.

Therefore, the resumed negotiations for the opposition integration may face rupture again if the PPD side seeks equal power sharing in the new unified party as agreed upon in earlier dealings.

Roles of Dissidents, Students Noted

SK180115 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
18 Mar 8 p 2

[Text] Dissidents and student activists broke the deadlock in the opposition merger by recommending that Kim Tae-chung step down from the presidency of his party to defeat what they called "military dictatorship" in the forthcoming legislative elections.

Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and Yi Mun-yong, who have backed Kim Tae-chung in the last presidential election, were said to have tenaciously called for Kim's retreat from the fore of the leadership of the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD).

In addition, a group of student activists conducted "shuttle diplomacy" for the realization of the opposition integration, meeting Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung on three occasions.

Last Thursday, one day after Kim Tae-chung declared his intention not to resign before the legislative elections, prominent student leaders, including U Sang-ho, former president of the Yonsei University Student Federation, formed an emergency committee to realize the opposition-dissident merger. Last Saturday, they visited the house of Kim Yong-sam, de facto leader of the Reunification Democratic Party, and pleaded that the former RDP leader should take a positive and responsible attitude to ensure the merger.

Kim Yong-sam was quoted as having expressed his full agreement with the recommendation of the students.

Sunday, they again met Kim Tae-chung at his house in Tonggyo-dong and recommended that Kim reconsider his earlier announcement not to step down.

Kim Tae-chung told the visiting students that he would retreat from the political front line and that he is ready to visit the house of his political rival Kim Yong-sam.

In the afternoon of the same day, the mediating students again called on Kim Yong-sam and conveyed the message of Kim Tae-chung to him.

Kim Yong-sam "demanded" that Kim Tae-chung first declare his resignation of the leadership before resuming the merger talk.

Kim also declined to become a coadvisor, along with Kim Tae-chung, of a unified party. At the tearful request of the students, Kim Yong-sam promised to let his deputies meet Kwon No-kap, secretary to Kim Tae-chung.

At 6 p.m., student leaders and Kwon No-kap appeared at a Seoul hotel and met Choe Hyong-u, close confidant to Kim Yong-sam.

Kwon proposed that the two Kims, forgetting their past rivalry, join hands together to form a new unified party.

Kwon also suggested that the new unified party is co-led by two representatives, each designated by the two Kims.

RDP [member] Choe immediately rejected the proposal and repeated an earlier demand that Kim Tae-chung should retreat to the political rear line before any resumption of the stalled merger talk.

Upon this rupture, in the negotiations, the student leaders broke into two groups and surged into the head offices of the Reunification Democratic Party and the Party for Peace and Democracy.

They then issued statements urging that the two major opposition parties should merge immediately, and that the two Kims become co-advisors of the new unified party and of the parliamentary election headquarters.

They also urged the two parties to adopt a collective leadership system under which five representatives, two each from the RDP and the PPD and one from the nascent Hangyora Party, would steer the new unified party.

While the students waged a sit-in protest, a group of PPD parliamentary hopefuls seeking to run in the metropolitan districts, begged Kim Tae-chung to "step down to facilitate the grand opposition merger."

After hearing their plea, Kim Tae-chung held an unscheduled mid-night meeting with key post holders at his house on Saturday and let their deputies prepare a statement indicating his resignation.

No Discusses Role of Military, Elections

*SK180133 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
18 Mar 88 p 2*

[Text] President No Tae-u yesterday urged a bold elimination of authoritarianism and bureaucratism from the armed forces while calling for the political neutrality of the military.

During a briefing on major programs of the Defense Ministry from Minister O Cha-pok, No noted that a new democratic image for the military can be established when the military personnel discard authoritarian and bureaucratic practices and the sense of privilege.

President No stressed that military personnel should devote themselves only to their intrinsic mission and they must not be used for political purposes under any circumstances.

The President appealed to the ministry to double its efforts to win public confidence by strengthening publicity campaigns to gain the people's better understanding of the actual situation of the military.

The military led the entire society for many years after the Korean War as it learned developed American administrative skills ahead of the private sector.

However, since the rapid industrialization and social modernization, the military has lagged behind the civil sector, including the business community, according to President No.

No recalled that he witnessed the people's strong resistance to authoritarianism stemming from military culture, during the last Dec. 16 presidential election.

The decades-long controversy over the legitimacy of the government ended through the June 29 declaration for democratic reforms and subsequent direct election. Now is the time for all people and the military to work together for democratic reforms, No said.

The President asked the Defense Ministry to work out a long-term program to consolidate the cooperative security system of the Republic of Korea and the United States.

President No particularly urged the Defense Ministry to make particular efforts to ensure absentee polling in the coming parliamentary elections proceeds in a fair manner in army installations.

Minister O reported to the President that the Ministry of National Defense will form a "committee" to study overall measures designed to ensure political neutrality of the nation's military establishment.

Minister O said that the projected committee will be composed of leaders from various social strata to secure a diversity of opinions.

From this year, Minister O reported to President No, the ministry will begin to issue regular "national defense white papers" as part of its across-the-board endeavors to inform accurately the people about the real situation of the military and the incessant threat posed by North Korea.

The ministry also plans to gradually ease the current restrictive measures in operating joint military-police check points, off-limits procedures around military installations and entrance to farmlands close to the Demilitarized Zone in the interests of the people and from the viewpoint of protection of private property rights.

He said that the Defense Ministry will also focus on promoting the career soldier system to expeditiously curb the drain of professional servicemen.

To realize such a professional soldier system, the top defense chief added, the ministry contemplates forging ahead with fair and impartial military personnel management.

Further Talks With U.S. on Beef Imports
SK180839 Seoul YONHAP in English 0818 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (YONHAP)—South Korean and U.S. officials will meet again in Geneva Monday to tackle the thorny issue of opening South Korea's market to the U.S. beef.

The second-round beef talks, the Korean Agriculture-Forestry-Fishery Ministry officials said Friday, would be centered on the legal interpretation of regulations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Korea's beef import system and its operations.

The United States has reportedly lodged a protest with the GATT against Korea's restrictions on imports of beef.

South Korea had proposed that the second-round talks be held on March 24-25, but later accepted a U.S. counterproposal that the talks be opened on March 21, according to a ministry official.

The officials of the two countries had their first round of beef talks Feb. 19-20 but failed to iron out their differences.

The United States, threatening to invoke Section 301 of the U.S. trade act, has strengthened its pressure on South Korea to fully open its beef market.

Meanwhile, Korea also plans to start similar bilateral negotiations with Australia on March 23 in Geneva.

U.S. Files Case With GATT
SK180217 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
18 Mar 88 p 6

[Text] The United States has formally requested the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to investigate the Korean beef market opening, it was learned yesterday.

A spokesman for the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said that Washington, protesting Korea's ban on the beef imports, made the request through a letter sent last week to GATT. The beef case will be officially filed with the GATT, if Washington's request is accepted. In general, bilateral consents to the organization of the investigation panel are required to constitute the lawsuit, a Foreign Ministry official said.

The official said that a country can bring the pertinent case to the GATT after bilateral talks end in failure.

The lawsuit, if filed, will be the first of its kind advanced nations seek against developing countries on charge of the "unfair" trade practices, according to him.

Officials at the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said that Washington called for the panel formation, expressing dissatisfaction over the result of the bilateral beef talk held in Geneva Feb. 19-20.

But a ministry official said that the Washington's demand is expected to be rejected by the GATT as it fails to satisfy the requirements for the lawsuit.

He said that the U.S. request is "nonsense" in light of the "on-going" bilateral talks. The second beef talks between two countries are scheduled to be held in Geneva next week.

The board of GATT directors will discuss the U.S. request in a March 22 meeting, but the panel formation is not likely.

A delegation, including officials from the Foreign and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry, will leave for Geneva this weekend to attend the second preliminary meeting.

Ventures With U.S. Insurance Firms Approved
SK180201 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
18 Mar 88 p 6

[Text] As many as 100 leading U.S. life insurance companies including Prudential, Aetna and Metropolitan are eligible for joint ventures with Korean firms here in insurance business.

The eligibility has been based on a guideline for licensing joint-venture life insurance companies between Korean and foreign firms here announced by the Finance Ministry yesterday.

Under the guideline, a foreign applicant seeking licence to engage in life insurance jointly with Korean firms should have premium income and total assets equal to or exceeding a half of the average premium income and total assets of six existing domestic life insurance companies for the last three years.

The ministry said enterprises belonging to the top 15 domestic business groups will be prohibited from joint partnership with U.S. life insurance firms in line with an agreement made between the two governments early this year.

The 15 biggest business groups are Hyundai, Daewoo, Samsung, Lucky-Goldstar, Ssangyong, Hanjin, Sunk-yong, Korea Explosives, Daelim, Lotte, Dong-Ah Construction, Hanil Synthetic Fiber, Kia, Doosan and Pan Ocean Shipping.

However, enterprises which belong to business groups ranked 16 to 30 can be eligible for partnership in joint venture life insurance, provided that they hold less than 50 percent of total shares issued by the joint venture companies.

They are Hyosung, Dongkuk Steel Mill, Sammi, Han-yang, Kukdong Construction, Kolon, Kumho, Kohap, Dongbu, Hanbo, Haitai, Miwon, Korea Shipbuilding & Engineering Corp, Life and Halla Cement.

The other domestic companies will be able to hold up to 51 percent of the total shares issued by joint venture companies.

A foreign partner must possess 49 percent or more of the total shares in a joint venture firm whose head office will be located in metropolitan area, but there is no limitation in the joint venture firms headquartered in provinces.

But in case of a joint venture with business groups ranked 16 to 30, the foreign share should be more than 50 percent of the total share, regardless of location of its head office, according to the guideline.

Such restrictions aim at preventing domestic large business groups from jumping into insurance market vulnerable to their nationwide sales network and huge capital and foreign firms with poor financial statement from entering into domestic market, a ministry official said.

Joint venture life insurance companies should be capitalized at 6 billion won or more if their head offices are located in metropolitan area and those headquartered in provinces must be capitalized at 5 billion won or more, the guideline stipulates.

Thirty percent of paid-in capital should be deposited according to the specification by the finance minister to protect insurance subscribers.

As the government has announced the licencing guideline, joint venture firms are expected to be established here in the latter half of this year. It will take about four months for provisional licence in principle, the guideline said.

Now, a considerable number of U.S. life insurance companies are contacting domestic companies for joint ventures here. They include Metropolitan, New York Life Insurance, John Hancock, Mutual Benefit and Prudential, business sources said.

Meanwhile, the ministry plans to allow domestic businesses to establish life insurance companies with their own capital in line with the government's policy to liberalize domestic market.

A ministry official said that guidelines for licencing new domestic life insurance companies will be prepared and announced soon.

Domestic life insurance market grew 39.1 percent to 7,001.5 billion won last year in premium income from 5,034.2 billion won in 1986. The assets of life insurance companies also increased 37.4 percent to 11,631.8 billion won last year from 8,446 billion won in 1986.

Taiwan Seeks To Increase Volume of Trade
SK180117 Seoul YONHAP in English 0110 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (YONHAP)—By increasing the volume of trade between Seoul and Taipei, South Korea and Taiwan should reduce their trade deficits with Japan and ease frictions with their trading partners, the head of Taiwan's purchasing mission to Korea said Thursday.

In a news conference here, Chiang Hsien-shin, director of the Planning and Coordination Department at the China External Trade Development Council (CETRA), said the volume of trade between the two countries is expected to exceed 1.5 billion U.S. dollars this year.

He also said that many Taiwanese firms are seeking ways to divert their import sources from Japan to Korea, which is able to supply a variety of good quality electronics and machinery parts.

Chiang, who arrived in Korea Tuesday leading buyers from 19 Taiwanese companies, expressed the hope that Korean exporters would be willing to receive even the smallest orders from Taiwanese importers.

The purchasing mission will buy some 31 million dollars worth of Korean-made products this year, the CETRA official added.

National Youth Overseas Corps Established
SK180158 Seoul YONHAP in English 0149 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (YONHAP)—South Korea will begin sending its own version of the U.S. Peace Corps volunteers to Third World developing nations in Asia and Africa this year to transfer its economic and agricultural development expertise to those countries.

A government plan released on Friday said that the youths overseas technical service corps will be established for the purpose of sending volunteers to Third World nations including Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines this year.

According to the plan, the government will recruit 50 volunteers for the first group to be sent this year to developing countries in Asia and Africa. The Korean Government and the United Nations will provide a total of 410,000 U.S. dollars for the project. The number of the youths service corps' overseas workers will eventually increase to 100 in both 1989 and 1990, then rise to 200 in 1991, and increase to more than 300 in 1992.

The Korean volunteers will work for two years in their host countries, according to the government plan.

Meanwhile, the government plan also called for the establishment of an exclusive government body to be in charge of external technical cooperation by the end of this year.

The government body will be responsible for the invitation of foreign technical trainees to Korea and their education as well as the dispatch of Korean technical experts to foreign countries.

The new government organization will also handle the planning, management and evaluation of technical cooperation activities with developing countries.

In addition, the Korean Government plans to double its budget for overseas technical cooperation which now accounts for 0.01 percent of its gross national product (GNP) or 7 billion won (9.3 million U.S. dollars one U.S. dollar is worth about 755 won).

Striking Workers Stone Hyundai Guard

SK170155 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] A guard was stoned to death yesterday by striking laborers at Hyundai Engineering Co. in Ulsan, Kyongsangnam-do.

The tragic death came as guards were whisking away the company's former union leader Kwon Yong-mok, 29, and two other workers to an office of the production building.

Hyundai Engineering has resorted to lockout on Feb. 26 due to a labor-management turmoil over wage hike and better working conditions.

When the guards took the three workers away about 90 laborers who had been staging a sit-in rally on the fifth floor of the firm's main building began to throw a hail of stones and steel chunks to the office where their colleagues were confined.

In the melee, O In-sok, 28, company's guard was hit on the head by a flying stone.

He was immediately moved to the Hyesong Hospital in Ulsan where he was pronounced dead due to critical wounds to the head.

The workers continued to mount a violent rally in the company after having succeeded in freeing their three colleagues from confinement.

Police, meantime, asked the striking laborers to hand over the workers who were suspected of killing the guard.

Police Seek Union Figures

SK180207 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
18 Mar 88 p 3

[Text] Ulsan, Kyongsangnam-do (YONHAP)—Police launched a spirited search yesterday for the former president of the Hyundai Engine and Machinery Co. trade union and 10 union members for killing a security guard of the company.

O Im-sok, 28, was hit by object, thrown from the roof of the administration building of the Hyundai plant by protesting workers around 11:30 a.m. Wednesday.

The seriously injured security guard was pronounced dead while being rushed to a nearby hospital.

Soon after the incident, the Kyongsangnam-do Police Bureau set up a special investigation team to apprehend Kwon Yong-mok, 29, ex-chief of the trade union. Investigators said Kwon and about 90 unionists stormed a bachelors' dormitory to incite fellow workers to join them in the protest against management.

The workers, including the union leader, slipped out of the quarters about 30 minutes after midnight and went into hiding, the investigators said. About 2,000 unmarried workers live in the dormitory.

The provincial police bureau deployed hundreds of riot police around the labor dispute-ridden company and other companies under Hyundai Group control to prevent violent protests.

The police action was in response to leaflets Kwon and senior union officials distributed Wednesday, urging their colleagues to participate in a large-scale rally to denounce management for its suppression of the union's activities.

In a related development, some 100 workers of Hyundai Engine and Machinery Co. and Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. demonstrated in the company's playground, demanding the reinstatement of dismissed fellow workers, yesterday morning.

In the meantime, authorities in the port city of Ulsan held an emergency meeting Wednesday night and decided to arrest Kwon and Kim Chin-kuk, head of a council set for reinstatement of all workers fired for strikes since last July.

Gov. Cho Ik-nae of Kyongsangnam-do, Yo Kyong-ku, chief of the Kyongsangnam-do Police Bureau, Son Won-sik, provincial labor administration chief, and other officials attended the meeting.

Participants decided to ask the company to hold a funeral for the security guard and provide full compensation to his bereaved family.

They also agreed the police should determine who killed the security guard.

The labor fray at Hyundai Engine and Machinery Co. started Feb. 26 when Kwon and about 200 followers began a sit-in demanding the rehabilitation of four sacked workers, including Kwon, and recognition of Kwon as legal union head.

The labor strife focused on Kwon's qualification for the top post of the labor union.

The company fired Kwon Feb. 4 and informed the trade union that Kwon was disqualified to head the trade union shortly after the Ulsan branch of the Pusan District Court sentenced him to one year in jail suspended for two years for instigating about 20,000 workers of the company to stage violent street demonstrations last Aug. 17-18.

Kwon said his dismissal was illegal and his presidency was still in force while he appealed the sentence to a higher court. He was reelected as labor union leader Feb. 16 with about 1,000 votes.

New National Assembly Secretary General Named
SK180235 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
18 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] The government will appoint Yi Yang-u, 57, secretary-general of the National Assembly, it was learned yesterday.

Yi has served as minister of the Office of Legislation and senior presidential secretary for official discipline and civil service.

Incumbent Secretary-General Yi Chae-hwan will soon resign to run in the coming parliamentary election.

Burma

Security Police Enter Rangoon Campus

BK171634 Hong Kong AFP in English 1617 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Rangoon, March 17 (AFP)—Armed security police entered the campus of Rangoon University Thursday as students were apparently making plans for a demonstration, witnesses said here.

They said hundreds of students had staged an impromptu rally inside the campus Wednesday but had been stopped by police using batons and tear gas when they attempted to march outside.

A large number of students were arrested following the attempted protest Wednesday and there were unconfirmed reports of casualties, they said.

The witnesses said the rally had apparently been organized by Rangoon Institute of Technology (RIT) students following the death of one of their classmates during 30 hours of unrest at the weekend.

The victim, identified as Maung Phone Maw, 23, died Sunday during clashes between RIT students and residents of a community across the campus in Insein Township, a northern suburb of Rangoon.

The students reportedly said that Maung Phone Maw had been killed following police action during the riot and they were urging their colleagues at Rangoon University to join a mass funeral procession Thursday morning.

Unrest had been reported at the RIT Tuesday following the weekend riot and Radio Rangoon said police and Armed Forces personnel entered the campus to take control of the situation.

The radio said rioting students had destroyed office and school equipment and were threatening the rector.

The incidents on Wednesday and Thursday have not been reported by the official media.

Witnesses said the situation around the Rangoon University campus was tense, roads were blocked, and traffic and pedestrians had been diverted.

Inquiry Commission Formed

BK171423 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] Today, the State Council of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma issued Notification No 45/88 on formation of an investigation commission to inquire into the unrest that started with a fight on 12 March 1988 between some RIT students and people of West Gyogon ward in Insein Township.

The commission is made up of U Ba Maw, a member of the Council of People's Justices, as chairman; U Hla Tint, a member of the Council of People's Attorneys; and Dr Maung Shein, a member of the Council of People's Inspectors, as its members.

The notification states that the chairman will appoint one of the members as secretary. The commission is to inquire into how the incident started, who is responsible for the death of a student due to a gunshot received during the incident, the gun's owner, and the type of gun used in the shooting. The commission's report is to be submitted to the State Council no later than 17 April 1988.

The commission's report is to include the commission's conclusion and advice on the incident and its recommendations on preventing similar incidents from occurring. The report will also include other findings at the discretion of the commission.

The notification states that the Council of People's Justices will be responsible for expenses incurred by the commission and that the tenure of the commission will end on the day the report is submitted.

Asks Public for Information

BK171435 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] An investigation commission, which was formed by the State Council to inquire into unrest that started with a fight between some RIT students and people of West Gyogon ward in Insein Township, issued a notification today.

The notification states that the commission office will be opened at the Office of the Council of People's Justices on Pansodan Road in Rangoon on 21 March, the 4th day of the waxing moon of Tagu, 1349 [Burmese year].

The commission invites the public to personally give their information on the incident involving some RIT students and people of West Gyogon ward during office hours at the office of the commission.

Student Unrest Spreads

BK180938 Hong Kong AFP in English 0931 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Rangoon, March 18 (AFP)—Student unrest spread to the Arts and Science University here this week as the Burmese Government announced a commission of inquiry into the death of a young student during street clashes last weekend.

Witnesses said hundreds of students took part in campus demonstrations on Wednesday and Thursday, with numerous clashes with security police being reported.

Police used batons and tear gas to quell the unrest while students retaliated with stones, the witnesses said.

Arrests were made by the truckload and there were numerous accounts of casualties, but these could not be confirmed officially.

Classes were suspended at the Rangoon Institute of Technology (RIT) and Rangoon University, as police and Armed Forces seized both campuses, but no official closure of the schools was announced.

Students here have been protesting the death Sunday of one of their colleagues, identified as 23-year-old Maung Phone Maw. They claim he was shot during police action.

They also contend that the state-owned media has misrepresented the weekend incident and demanded that the true facts be exposed.

Observers here said the appointment of an inquiry was a positive response to the students' demand that the person responsible for Mr. Maung's death be uncovered. They also expected that it would have a quieting effect on them.

The three-member commission headed by Justice Ba Maw "is to enquire into how the incident started, who is responsible for the death of a student due to a gunshot received during the incident, the gun's owner and the type of gun used in the shooting," said a public announcement Thursday evening.

The commission has already called on witnesses to come and give their account of the incident. It must report its findings and "recommendations on preventing similar incidents from occurring" by April 17 at the latest.

Radio Rangoon has said the incident started last Saturday over a song request at a tea shop in Insein, a northern suburb of the capital where RIT is located.

Fourteen people, including 13 students, were injured in subsequent clashes with residents of a community across from the RIT campus that lasted 30 hours. One of the students died later in hospital.

People's Assembly Session Continues

*BK171459 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 17 Mar 88*

[Text] The sixth meeting of the Fourth People's Assembly of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma has continued for the fourth day this morning at 1000 in the conference hall of the People's Assembly Building. It was attended by 480 People's Assembly representatives headed by U San Yu, president and chairman of the State Council.

This morning's session was chaired by U Tun Pe, representative of Mandalay Division's Madaya Township Constituency-1, while U Aung Khin Tint, director general of the People's Assembly Office, officiated as secretary of the meeting.

As the meeting began, the presiding chairman announced that of the 482 eligible representatives 480 were present, constituting 99.59 percent attendance. He then declared the validity of the meeting and announced it open.

Five Assembly representatives discussed and supported the 1988 State Appropriations Bill submitted by the Council of Ministers. The presiding chairman announced that March 18 had been set aside for the Council of Ministers to respond to the discussions and for the People's Assembly to decide on the bill. The meeting was then briefly recessed after three assembly representatives discussed and supported the Report of the Council of People's Inspectors that was submitted to the Assembly on the second day of the session.

When the meeting resumed in the afternoon, three Assembly representatives continued to discuss the Report of the Council of People's Inspectors. The presiding chairman then announced that 18 March has been set aside for the Council of People's Inspectors to respond to the discussions and for the People's Assembly to vote on the report.

Next, two Assembly representatives discussed and supported the Report of the Election Commission which was submitted on the second day of the session. The presiding chairman announced that the Elections Commission would respond to the discussions and the Assembly will vote on the report on 18 March.

As the meeting continued, U Min Gaung, minister of home and religious affairs, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, replied to the discussions of the assembly members on the Bill Amending the 1974 Narcotic Drugs Law and the Bill Amending the 1974 Drugs Rules. The Assembly representatives then cast their open vote on the bills. The presiding chairman then announced that as the votes in support of the bills exceeded the necessary 75 percent, the two bills had been passed by the Assembly.

Next, the Assembly representatives cast their open vote on the Bill Amending the Law on Privileges of the People's Representatives. The presiding chairman then announced that bill has been passed by the Assembly as it received more votes than the required 75 percent.

The Assembly meeting ended at 1350.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore Malaysia

Danish Prime Minister Begins 3-Day Visit

*BK170717 Kuala Lumpur International Service
in English 0600 GMT 17 Mar 88*

[Text] Danish Prime Minister Mr Poul Schluter has arrived in Kuala Lumpur for a 3-day official visit. Mr Schluter is accompanied by a 60-member delegation

comprising senior officials, businessmen, and members of the mass media. He was received by the deputy prime minister, Mr Ghafar Baba, Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan, and Deputy Agriculture Minister Datuk Alex Lee who is the minister in attendance.

Immediately after his arrival, the delegation proceeded to Parliament House where the Danish prime minister was accorded an official welcoming ceremony.

Mahathir Addresses Dinner

*BK171606 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
1547 GMT 17 Mar 88*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 17 (BERNAMA)—Malaysia hopes to fully tap the growing potential of the Danish market and develop Denmark into a major distribution centre for Malaysia's export to the Nordic countries, Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed said Thursday night.

He believed cooperative efforts towards realising these objectives would be a positive step in increasing the overall trade between both countries.

Speaking at a dinner in honour of visiting Denmark Prime Minister Poul Schluter at Sri Perdana here, he expressed his readiness to welcome any views from Schluter on bilateral and international issues that would help generate greater cooperation and understanding between the two countries.

He said the visit was a good occasion to review the state of bilateral relations and an opportunity to assess the progress made so far in strengthening bilateral relationship.

Dr Mahathir said that over the past few years, commodities had recorded low prices which brought to decline in value terms Malaysia's exports to Denmark, although in quantitative terms the Danish market continued to register increasing off-takes from Malaysia. [sentence as received]

He said Malaysia hoped to overcome the persistent trade deficit faced so as to establish a more balanced trade relations with Denmark.

Although Malaysia had offered various incentives, the growth of Danish investments in this country had not reflected Denmark's real potential, he added.

Meeting Held 18 March

*BK180842 Kuala Lumpur International Service
in English 0800 GMT 18 Mar 88*

[Text] Malaysia and Denmark have agreed to resume talks on the bilateral investment guarantee agreement. The last round of talks on the proposed agreement between the two countries was held in 1985.

At a meeting in Kuala Lumpur this morning, the prime minister, Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, and his Danish counterpart, Mr Poul Schluter, agreed that the talks should resume as soon as possible. This is to speed up trade exchange program between Malaysia and Denmark. Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir invited Denmark to participate in deep-sea fishing activities in Malaysia. He suggested that Denmark look into the possibility of investing in the furniture industry for export to Japan and European countries.

Briefing the newsmen on the meeting, the acting secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Looi Cheok Hun, said Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed expressed the hope that Denmark would grant landing rights for Malaysia Airlines in Copenhagen. The prime minister also hoped Denmark could help Malaysia to gain trade access into the EEC countries for its products, including plywood, garments, and pineapples.

On international issues, Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed expressed the hope that Denmark could support Malaysia in its bid for a seat in the UN Security Council. Mr Schluter said his country would study the matter and inform Malaysia later.

On the Vietnamese illegal immigration problem, Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir thanked Denmark for resettling about 500 of them from Malaysia. He hoped that Denmark would continue to absorb them. The prime minister extended an invitation to the queen of Denmark to visit Malaysia.

Mahathir on Constitutional Amendment Plans

*BK171507 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1
in Malay 1200 GMT 17 Mar 88*

[Text] The prime minister says that several articles in the country's Constitution need to be amended, including Article 121, to clarify the position of courts, particularly the division of the judicial, executive, and legislative branches. Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir said this at the House of Representatives when he tabled the Constitution amendment bill for the second reading. He also explained the need for the amendment.

[Begin Mahathir recording in progress] ...to clearly define the position of the courts. At present, the division between the judicial, executive, and legislative branches is vague due to the provisions relating to the vesting of the federation's judicial power in the high courts. The government hopes that the amendment will make the division clear. This is important for enabling the executive, legislative, and judicial branches to fulfill their respective responsibilities without interfering with the other arms. Lately, there have been indications that matters that are thought to be the prerogative of the executive branch, are considered encroachable by the judiciary. If the duties of an arm are encroached upon by

other arms, the administration of the country will be threatened and become weak, and the weak administration will not be able to guarantee the stability and welfare of the country.

Mr Speaker: This amendment is needed because the citizens and residents of the country and the government need to clearly know what is wrong and what is not wrong under the country's laws. Accordingly, the powers of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches need to be clearly defined. [end recording]

The unlimited use of another country's law has negative effects on a country that has a law of its own.

[Begin Mahathir recording] The unlimited use of the British Common Law without taking into consideration the differences in the cultures and civilizations of Britain and Malaysia, and the use of unwritten rights of courts—such as the judicial review, natural justice, and others—have rendered the written laws no longer useful. The public and the government can no longer refer to laws when they act. [end recording]

Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir also stressed the importance of maintaining the authority of the shari'ah courts for the country's Muslims.

[Begin Mahathir recording] An issue that has often been a source of complaint and caused dissatisfaction among the Muslims in the country is that a civil court can change or nullify a decision made by a Shariah court. It is very important to guarantee the authority of the shari'ah courts as it is proper for the shari'ah courts to be granted full power to define and decide on matters that fall under their authority, let alone matters involving the Shari'ah law. This being the case, it is also proposed that a new sub-article be added to Article 121, in this case, Sub-Article 1a, which will clarify that the courts mentioned in the article [Article 121] have no authority over any matters under the authority of the shari'ah courts. It is the government's intention to set up [Islamic] high courts that dissatisfied persons can refer their cases to. [end recording]

The prime minister said that opposition was expected from certain quarters to the Constitution amendment bill. They will, as usual, ask foreigners to interfere in the internal affairs of their own country. Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed reiterated that the amendment bill would not affect the freedom of the courts. He explained that allowing courts to make their own laws and implement them means that the courts play the role of the legislature and the judiciary. This is against the doctrine of the separation of power. The Constitution amendment bill ensures that the separation of power will be practiced and that an overlapping of power between the judiciary and legislature will no longer exist. The House of Representatives, which sat until 0730 tonight, will resume deliberations on the Constitution amendment bill tomorrow.

Cambodia

Four-Nation Conference Held March 16-17
BK181245 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1115 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Phnom Penh, 18 Mar (SPK)—A conference of deputy foreign ministers of Kampuchea, Laos, Vietnam, and the Soviet Union was held here from March 16-17 to exchange views on the search for a political solution to the Kampuchean issue and on the burning question in Southeast Asia recently. [as received]

During their meeting, Dit Munti, Sulivong Prasithidet, Tran Quang Co and Igor Rogachev, respectively deputy foreign ministers of Kampuchea, Laos, Vietnam and the Soviet Union, noted that there have been positive changes in the process of searching for a solution to the Kampuchean problem: More and more people in the world realize that the Kampuchean conflict must be resolved by peaceful means. The participants noted with satisfaction the PRK Government's support from the Kampuchean people and the world public. They expressed full support for the resumption of talks between PRK Chairman of Council of Ministers Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

The four deputy foreign ministers brought out the importance of concerted efforts of the four countries in quest of a solution to the Kampuchean issue in the interests of the Kampuchean people and of peace and security in Southeast Asia and the Asian-Pacific region. The Soviet Union, Vietnam and Laos reiterated their readiness, together with other concerned countries, to accelerate the process of finding a solution to the Kampuchean issue. The deputy foreign ministers of the three Indochinese countries reaffirmed their countries' foreign policy of peace, neighbourliness and cooperation with other countries in the region, the determination to defend their national independence and sovereignty and settle border disputes through negotiations. The Soviet Union side highly valued that political line.

The conference took place in an atmosphere of friendship, solidarity and fraternity.

The four deputy foreign ministers were cordially received by Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister for foreign affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, after the conference ended.

Hun Sen Receives Visiting Officials
BK180649 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0502 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Phnom Penh, 18 Mar (SPK)—Hun Sen, member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of foreign affairs, received in Phnom Penh on Thursday afternoon

Tran Quang Co, Igor Rogachev, and Sulivong Prasithidet, deputy ministers of Vietnam, the USSR, and Laos respectively, who were here to attend a consultative conference of the four countries.

On this occasion, Chairman Hun Sen informed his guests of the successes won in all fields by the Cambodian people during the past 9 years, and highly praised the results of the conference. He shared the view of his guests that the Cambodian problem must be settled by the Cambodian people themselves.

For his part, on behalf of the delegates to the conference, Igor Rogachev briefed Chairman Hun Sen on the work of the conference that took a keen interest in the Hun Sen-Sihanouk meetings and deemed it necessary to continue these meetings to reach an equitable solution to the Cambodian problem. He reiterated the Soviet Union's support for the PRK.

The conference disapproved of China's attitude toward Vietnam concerning the Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago. It is preferable that the conflict be settled through peaceful means, said the Soviet diplomat.

Also present were Ngo Dien, Pheli Khounlaleuk, and Yuriy I. Razdukhov, ambassadors of Vietnam, Laos, and the USSR respectively.

Agreement With USSR Signed

*BK180705 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0504 GMT
18 Mar 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh, 18 Mar (SPK)—A draft cooperation in the economic and cultural fields between the PRK and the Soviet Union was signed in Phnom Penh yesterday.

The signatories were Tang Saroem, minister of the economic and cultural cooperation with foreign countries, and Igor Rogachev, visiting deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR.

Another draft cooperation between the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and that of the USSR for 1988 and 1989 and an agreement on visa exemption between the two countries were also signed by Dit Munti, Cambodian deputy minister of foreign affairs, and Igor Rogachev.

SRV Pullout Said 'Key' to Cambodian Solution

*BK180925 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic
Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 17 Mar 88*

[Station commentary: "The Withdrawal of Vietnamese Troops From Cambodia To Allow the Cambodian People To Enjoy Their Right to Self-Determination Is the Key to a Political Solution of the Cambodian Issue"]

[Text] The world has obviously seen that if the Cambodian problem has not been resolved so far, it is due mainly to the stubbornness of the Vietnamese aggressors

in refusing to withdraw their troops from Cambodia in conformity with the UN resolution and the global demand. There is a consensus that the key to settlement of the Cambodian problem is the total withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor troops from Cambodia, thus allowing the Cambodian people to determine their own destiny by themselves without any external interference. For this reason, on all occasions and in all international forums, the international community continues to firmly adhere to the UN resolution and to voice strong denunciations and condemnation of the Vietnamese aggression in Cambodia as well as to demand that Vietnam unconditionally withdraw all of its aggressor troops from Cambodia.

For example, at the audience accorded to the DK ambassador to Gambia on 18 February, Gambian President Dawda Jawara said that Gambia will continue to appeal to Vietnam and the Soviet Union in all forums to withdraw troops from Cambodia. Moreover, the Gambian foreign minister in a statement on 19 February said Gambia condemned the Vietnamese aggression against the Cambodian people and continued to demand that Vietnam totally withdraw its troops from Cambodia to ensure peace and progress in Cambodia. He emphasized that the Cambodian people should have the right to self-determination free from foreign interference.

During a meeting with the Hungarian foreign minister on 3 March, Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila said the complete pullout of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia and Vietnam's participation in negotiations on the Cambodian problem constitute the key to a political settlement of the Cambodian issue.

During their 7 March talks, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian unanimously agreed that the key to a just and reasonable settlement of the Cambodian problem is the prompt withdrawal of all foreign troops, meaning the Vietnamese troops, from Cambodia. Furthermore, upon his arrival in the UK on 10 March, Wu Xueqian had a meeting with British Foreign Minister Geoffrey Howe during which both agreed that the Vietnamese troops must be withdrawn from Cambodia as soon as possible.

In his 21 March [as heard] statement made at the conclusion of his 5-year term as Indonesian president, Suharto demanded that all Vietnamese troops be withdrawn from Cambodia.

Finally, at the recent UN Human Rights Commission Conference in Geneva, representatives of various countries denounced and condemned Vietnam and vigorously demanded that it withdraw its troops from Cambodia. The Philippine representative, Jose Ingles, reaffirmed the call by ASEAN and the overwhelming majority of other countries for Vietnam to seriously take part in talks in order to settle the Cambodian problem in a just and lasting manner, including a total withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops from Cambodia to allow the

Cambodian people to determine their own destiny themselves. He stressed that a political solution to the Cambodian issue should be based on a withdrawal of all foreign troops from Cambodia and the restoration and safeguarding of Cambodian independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; the right of the people to self-determination; and a guarantee from all countries not to interfere in the internal affairs of Cambodia.

The Belgian representative said that Belgium would help push forward every initiative that would encourage all foreign troops, namely the Vietnamese troops, to withdraw from Cambodia and bring about free elections in Cambodia.

The U.S. representative stated that the misery in Cambodia and on the Thai border could be ended only after Vietnam abandoned its imperialist policy in Southeast Asia, gave up its colony, and withdrew its troops from Cambodia.

The UN Commission on Human Rights should demand that all Vietnamese troops be withdrawn from Cambodia. This is the earnest call and stand of the overwhelming majority of countries in the world. The Hanoi authorities must respect this global call and withdraw all of their troops from Cambodia to allow the Cambodian people to enjoy their right to self-determination without any external interference.

Laos

Border Dispute Talks With Thailand Continue

Two Sessions Held 17 March

BK171348 *Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao*
1200 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Excerpts] After the arrival in Vientiane this morning of the delegation of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand via special plane, talks on the settlement of the border dispute in the area between Boten District of Laos' Sayaboury Province and Chat Trakan District of Thailand's Phitsanulok Province were held between the delegations of the Governments of the LPDR and the Kingdom at the meeting room of the Lan Xang Hotel in the capital of Vientiane this morning and afternoon, 17 March 1988. [passage omitted]

The morning session started at 1000 and proceeded until 1145.

After the morning session, Phanthong Phommahasai, spokesman for the Lao Government delegation, representing both sides, told reporters:

[Begin Phanthong recording] I would like to inform you that the Lao and Thai Government delegations held one round of talks this morning in a neighborly and brotherly atmosphere and exchanged views in a frank manner. Everything proceeded smoothly. The meeting adjourned

at the predesignated time. After lunch, the two delegations will continue the meeting in the afternoon so as to hold more consultations to find a solution in a brotherly and neighborly manner. [end recording]

The two delegations met in the afternoon from 1500 to 1700. Sarot Chawanawirat, spokesman for the Thai delegation, representing both sides, told reporters:

[Begin Sarot recording in Thai] The meetings, in both the morning and afternoon, proceeded in a friendly and brotherly atmosphere. We discussed and exchanged views on a wide range of issues in a frank manner and showed legal evidence and maps we have. No agreement was reached today. Therefore, the meeting will continue tomorrow. [end recording]

Morning Session Held 18 March

BK180609 *Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao*
0515 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Report on the morning session of the second day of Lao-Thai talks "by station correspondent Choumma Chanthalangsi from Lan Xang Hotel in Vientiane"]

[Text] Dear listeners: We would like to report to you on the talks between the delegations of the LPDR Government and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The talks between the Lao Government delegation and the Thai Government delegation respectively led by Brigadier General Thonglai Kommasit and M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi to settle the border conflict in Boten District of Laos' Sayaboury Province and in Chat Trakan District of Thailand's Phitsanulok Province continued for the second day at the meeting room of the Lan Xang Hotel in Vientiane. This morning the two sides began the talks at 0800. The meeting was adjourned at 1030. Our station correspondent interviewed Phanthong Phommahasai, spokesman of the Lao Government delegation, on the issues discussed by both sides this morning. Here is what happened:

[Begin recording] This morning we continued talks on the point that we have the duty or obligation to carry out our assignments entrusted to us by the heads of the Lao and Thai Governments and the agreement reached by the Lao and Thai military delegations. In the Lao side's view, we see that this duty or obligation is the most fundamental thing that must be unanimously agreed upon by us. We must outline a clear-cut objective with a view to resolving the incident. For example, we must clearly define where the borderline between Sayaboury Province and Phitsanulok Province is located. Then we can proceed to discuss other topics. Thus, the negotiations in the past 2 days—yesterday and this morning—still concentrated on this point in which both sides have expressed their views by referring to legal documents and related maps to support them.

As for the Lao side, we firmly affirm our respect for the 1907 French-Siamese Treaty and its protocol that clearly states that the borderline in the disputed area begins from the mouth of the Heuang River at the bank of the Mekong River and follows the deepest point of this river until the source of its origin in the Miang Mountain. Then, this borderline runs along the watershed between the basins of the Kong River and the Chao Phraya River.

As for the Thai side, it is still looking for documentary evidence to show that the Lao side's claim is not correct. The correct borderline must follow the deepest part of the Heuang Nga River. The truth is that the two sides have not yet reached any unanimity on this. Therefore, the talks will continue this afternoon to try to reach unanimity in setting up an objective to resolve this problem. This means that they must unanimously agree where the borderline in the disputed area actually lies. This matter will be discussed this afternoon. [end recording]

This afternoon both sides will continue the talks to exchange views again beginning at 1500.

Leaders Attend Funeral Rites for Late General

*BK181052 Vientiane KPL in English 0906 GMT
18 Mar 88*

[Text] Vientiane, March 18 (KPL)—The funeral rite for the late Lieut General Khampha Chaleunphonmisai, member of the LPRP CC, deputy-minister of defence, who died at a helicopter accident on March 14, 1988, was held here on March 17.

Present at the funeral were Kayson Phomvihane, general secretary of the LPRP CC, chairman of the Council of Ministers and Politburo members: Nouhak Phoumsavan, Phoumi Vongvichit, General Khamtai Siphandon, Phoun Sipaseut, Sisomphon Lovansai, General Sisavat Keobounphan, Sali Vongkhamso, Maichantan Sengmani, Colonel General Saman Vi-gnaket. Also present were alternate Politburo members: Oudom Khatthi-gna, Choummali Sai-gnason, and members of the party CC, ministers, deputy-ministers, officers and representatives of mass organizations.

Delegations of the Ministry of Defence of the SRV and the PR of Kampuchea respectively led by Colonel General Tran Sam, deputy defence minister of Vietnam, and Soy Keo, deputy defence minister of Kampuchea, military attaches of the Soviet Union, the SRV, the PRK to Laos were also present at the funeral.

At the cremation ceremony which took place in the afternoon, an eulogy praise of Khampha's revolutionary activities was read out. Khampha Chaleunphonmisai was 68 years old.

Before the religious rite started, Lao leaders paid their last tribute to the late deputy-minister of defence.

Philippines

House Commences Study on U.S. Bases Options

*HK180939 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English
18 Mar 88 p 8*

[Text] The House committee on economic affairs will begin its studies on the feasibility of viable economic enterprises, like leasing, renting or selling RP [Republic of the Philippines] military camps to include subdivision planning; lease, rent or sale of the Manila international airport to include subdivision planning; and, the feasibility of a pilot agrarian reform project once the Clark and Subic facilities are vacated.

This developed as Rep. Ramon Bagatsing Jr. of Manila, the subcommittee chairman, announced a 15-point proposal on the establishment in the U.S. bases of enterprising industries.

The solon noted that the three abovementioned alternatives will be the top priorities. Other proposals to be studied include establishment of a free trade processing zone to include a free port in Zambales and Pampanga provinces, establishment of a trade development authority, a shipbuilding industry to include market studies on ship repairs and salvage operation and audit of U.S. military installation, equipment and others, as well as a study on the rent compared to other host countries.

Rep. Margarito Teves of Negros Oriental, chairman on the House committee on economic affairs, said the study will look into the alternatives if the Government decide to abrogate the bases agreement and the compensation that should be demanded if the country opts to retain these bases.

Central Luzon Role in Bases Talks Urged

*HK180209 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company
in English 2300 GMT 17 Mar 88*

[Text] Pampanga Governor Bren Guiao has proposed that Central Luzon, particularly Angeles City and Olongapo City, be represented in the forthcoming negotiations of the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Military Bases Agreement. Guiao said that he has recommended to both the Philippine and U.S. panels the inclusion in the bases talks of representatives of Central Luzon, especially the Filipino civilian employees associations at Clark Air Base in Angeles City and Subic Naval Base in Olongapo City. Guiao explained that those two cities are the areas most affected by the presence of the U.S. military bases. There are other satellite U.S. bases in Central Luzon, among them Camp O'Donnell in Capas, Tarlac; and the U.S. Naval Communications Center in San Antonio, Zambales.

Military Lacks Nuclear Arms Detection Skill
HK180937 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 18 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] Subic Naval Base, Olongapo City—Deputy Subic Naval Base Commander Artemio Tadiar admitted to newsmen Wednesday that the Philippine military has no capability to verify the presence of nuclear weapons aboard U.S. vessels.

He said, however, that the government can acquire the capability once the national leadership expresses the political will to enforce the constitutional provision that prohibits nuclear weapons in the country's territory.

Tadiar said sufficient funds and time should be allocated to acquire the technology and the training of personnel with the cooperation of such groups as the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission.

U.S. forces commander in Subic Theodore Lewin [name as published] said it would be "exceptionally difficult to operate the U.S. Navy without Subic" because other locations would not be as strategic.

Lewin pointed out that some 700 miles across the South China Sea the Soviet Union has stationed ships more numerous than those normally kept by the United States at Subic. Lewin was referring to the Soviet naval base on Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam.

Lewin said the Soviet naval base houses fighter aircraft that can be used to intimidate any country in the Asia-Pacific region.

Lewin disagreed with Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus's claim that the Philippines is not getting enough from the U.S. for the use of the military bases in the country.

He pointed out that with the \$180-million yearly assistance, not including some \$90 million in purchases of Philippine products, the country enjoys "significant assistance" from the U.S.

Aquino Receives Japanese Pledge of Support
HK171205 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
1000 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] President Aquino today received a pledge of help and support from 12 visiting officials of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the development of the country's tourism industry and employment. Here is Sel Baesa with the details:

[Begin recording] According to Secretary Benigno, the visiting delegation has indicated its willingness to help improve the country's tourism industry and to invest more capital in the country to help reduce unemployment.

In their meeting with the president, the visiting Japanese officials also proposed training Filipino workers in various skill training programs to ensure a high quality of goods exported by the Philippines. They said that if this has been done in Japan, it could also be done in the Philippines. [end recording]

Discusses Internal Situation
HK171437 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1300 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The president discussed the peace and order situation in the country with the visiting delegation from the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, emphasizing that the situation has improved enormously.

[Begin Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno recording in English] The president also asked them to explain the campaigns of both the left and the right to bring down her government, and that these attempts have completely failed.

The president also announced that next June, there will be a conference in Manila of 13 countries who, like the Philippines, are undergoing a transition from dictatorship to democracy. The president said: This conference will make us Filipinos realize how much better off we are compared to other countries similarly situated.

The president said that the RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement] group led by captured ex-Colonel Honasan is now limited to pronouncements and the circulation of rumors, especially rumors preceding the graduation exercise at the Philippine Military Academy.

The president said: We have a good military leadership now, with General de Villa as Armed Forces chief of staff, who is a competent and honest chief of staff, and the military can now deal more effectively with insurgency. [end recording]

Army Overruns Pangasinan Communist Outpost
BK180912 Manila PNA in English 0846 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Manila March 18 (PNA/OANA)—Army troops backed by fighter jets and helicopter gunships overran Thursday a rebel communication outpost in the northern Philippine province of Pangasinan, the military said Friday.

At least 32 suspected rebels were rounded up and assorted guns and ammunition were seized, according to Constabulary Capt. Antonio Ayat.

Number of casualties on either side is still being checked, he said.

The assault, he added, followed last week's raid by some 200 communist rebels of a police detachment killing three policemen and two civilians.

Ayat said the rebel communication post was located on a mountainous area in the province's remote Natividad town.

Meanwhile, seven dissidents were killed in separate gunbattles with security forces the past days in Masbate and Abra Provinces north of here.

The clashes erupted while patrolling troops were pursuing a rebel band that earlier killed scores of soldiers, including a general's son, in an ambush.

Thursday, security forces captured a rebel leader in Pampanga Province north of here in a surprise raid of his hideout in a remote town.

Takes Control of Camp

*HK180959 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 18 Mar 88*

[Text] The military has captured an NPA camp in Pangasinan. For the details, here is Rey Rodriguez reporting from Camp Aguinaldo:

[Begin recording] An NPA camp has fallen into the hands of the military. The camp was captured following the arrest of 36 NPA suspects in carrying out the attack on the municipality of San Nicolas, Pangasinan, last Thursday.

According to a report received from the Pangasinan Constabulary Command, its troops launched the attack on the NPA camp, which was used as NPA training grounds, at around 1857 yesterday, 17 March. The camp was situated in a mountainous and remote area between Barangay Bakalia Sur and Barangay Norte, Natividad, Pangasinan.

The report from the Pangasinan Constabulary Command did not state whether the NPA attempted to defend their camp from the sudden military attack. However, the report clearly stated that the NPA was not able to thwart the government troops from attacking the camp.

The troops recovered several pairs of combat shoes, PC-INP uniforms, and personal items belonging to PC-INP members of the San Nicolas police station. Also found at the training camp were empty bullets fired from M-16 and M-14 rifles plus different kinds of ammunition.

The Pangasinan Constabulary Command's pursuit operation for the San Nicolas attackers is still being actively carried out. [end recording]

Captures Top NPA Commander

*BK181116 Quezon City RPN 9 Television
in English 1030 GMT 18 Mar 88*

[Text] A top NPA commander in Pampanga identified as Elizardo Lapuz was captured by PC soldiers at Barangay Santo Rosario in Mexico Town. Military

reports said Lapuz alias Commander Joven was captured as he was coming out of his hideout. Lapuz used to be the deputy commander of Felixberto Macalino alias Commander (Beyting) but assumed leadership of the NPA Pampanga Provincial Command following a power struggle with Macalino.

Kills 4 NPA Members

*HK181005 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 18 Mar 88*

[Text] Four NPA members were reported killed in an encounter with the military in Kalinga-Apayao. Here is Rey Rodriguez for the details:

[Begin recording] Four NPA members were killed in a violent clash with government troops in Kalinga-Apayao yesterday. This was a priority report sent by Regional Command 2 to the Constabulary chief, who has just now received the report. The report states that elements of the 186th PC Company headed by Captain Espia were carrying out a combat patrol in Barangay Sumage, Luna, Kalinga-Apayao, at around 0700 yesterday when they encountered an undetermined number of NPA members. A furious firefight took place immediately, resulting in the death of four NPA members. The victims have not yet been identified. One soldier was reported wounded in the incident. The soldier, who is being treated at the Cagayan provincial hospital, was not identified.

The military recovered two carbines from the scene of the crime. Elements of the 186th PC Company are now conducting a search for the NPA in Barangay Sumage. [end recording]

Rebels Kill 2 Soldiers in Manila Ambush

*OW180017 Tokyo KYODO in English 0003 GMT
18 Mar 88*

[Text] Manila, March 18 KYODO—A suspected communist death squad Thursday killed two soldiers and wounded an officer in a bold attack near a downtown Manila University, police said.

A sketchy police report said communist rebels fired upon one of the military men while he was making a telephone call to headquarters to report that his patrol squad's two-way radio communication equipment had failed.

The report said the second soldier, who acted as driver of the patrol car, was killed inside the vehicle.

Sergeant Adriano Fidel, the surviving officer, was hit in the left shoulder but managed to escape the assailants, the report said.

The military men, patrolling the university belt, were assaulted by a five-member rebel group while their car was parked in front of a corner store from which the call to headquarters was made, according to the report.

Meanwhile, in the southern Philippine province of Sultan Kudarat, communist rebels Wednesday ambushed a group of military men while on patrol, South Cotabato military officials said.

In the ensuing firefight between government troopers and the rebels, four soldiers, one rebel, and one civilian who was caught in the crossfire died, officials said.

Eight soldiers and three rebels were wounded, officials said.

Army Repositions Troops in Ilocos Norte
HK181355 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 18 Mar 88 p 6

[By staff member Lito Mangaser]

[Text] Ilocos Norte—The main headquarters here of the Third Army Brigade, Fifth Division, has transferred recently from a relatively safer plain to a virgin slope of hilly Barangay Visaya, Vintar town, within striking distance of known rebel territories.

Upfront in an outlying barangay, three of the infantry's combat battalions—the 45th, 50th and 65th columns—backed by elite Scout Rangers and at least 12 Special Operations Teams (SOT), the newly organized military units specializing in otherwise non-combat psychological operations (psyops), were moving in bigger flanks closer to communist rebel lairs.

With this new troop positioning, called "forward deployment," military observers said the Army is poising for widescale attacks soon in this province and adjacent Ilocos Sur where, according to official estimates, some 400 communist regulars and cadres operate.

Defense secretary Fidel V. Ramos, who visited the Army camp and two other Air Force and Constabulary installations here over the weekend, said the new game plan hopes to provoke New People's Army cells into engagement and ram into the main artery of guerrilla warfare the superior edge of government forces.

The idea is to deprive rebels of any elbowroom to employ the Maoist hit-and-run guerrilla tactic, the oft-repeated unconventional ploy of using smaller guerrilla armies to hit big targets in a swift blow, which had successfully defeated the powerful United States-backed government forces of South Vietnam.

"We moved your headquarters much closer to the enemy (in order for you) to be able to neutralize them," Ramos told welcoming soldiers as soon as he deplaned from a Huey gunship to the Army hill where, in an adjacent apex, two Howitzer artilleries loaded with live shells promptly suggested combat readiness.

Brig. Gen. Manuel Dizon, chief of Third Brigade, said he has been employing larger units in recent attacks.

In the past three months, his troops have conducted three brigade-size and 75 company-size operations which resulted to only 14 fatalities from the Government side. (A Company is composed of some 100 soldiers while a brigade consists of about 15 Companies).

"Man for man, the enemy has no match. They are even short in logistics, short in ammunition," boasted Dizon who has been assigned here only very recently after leading a successful anti-rebel campaign in Bukidnon last year.

In his parlance, the combat process is simply to "find fix and finish" the guerrillas, in that order.

The officer believed that insurgency in the two Ilocos provinces could be addressed primarily by military means, and he could swipe the rebels earlier than what a secret timetable had prescribed due, he said, to a significant absence of homegrown guerrillas.

Most of the 400 rebels in his domain, according to him, have been recruited not from home but sent by higher rebel headquarters from other provinces as far as Zambales.

Subsequent check by the 'CHRONICLE' with a Camp Aguinaldo source reinforced the commander's claim, describing the insurgency in the two provinces as "transplanted and artificial." Most of those operating in Ilocos have come from the bigger rebel strongholds of neighboring Abra, Cagayan and Kalinga-Apayao, he said.

Ramos himself hinted of this expectation in his address later to PC troops in Laoag City: "Sooner than later, we will be able to finish the job (of counterinsurgency)," he said.

Rebels Building Up Forces Along Coast
HK181349 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
in English 18 Mar 88 p 6

[Text] The communist rebels are "slowly" building up their forces along the coastal towns of Cavite to gain control of the approach to the Manila Bay, a military report said.

"Once the bay is controlled by the rebels, they can start collecting progressive taxes from foreign vessels going in and out of the country easily," Lt. Col. Cezar Garcia, commander of Cavite, said in his report to PC headquarters in Camp Crame.

The rebels consider the 14-kilometer approach to the historic Manila Bay as crucial to their armed struggle to seize power, because it "would help the Communist Party of the Philippines in their bid to attain a status of belligerency," he report said.

A belligerency status means that the territory under the insurgents' grip virtually gains the attributes of an independent state. Aside from having a free run of the

territory, the rebels can ask representations in the international organizations and maintain limited diplomatic relations with countries which recognize such status.

Garcia, citing intelligence reports, said in his report that New People's Army (NPA) guerillas were monitored in the coastal towns of Cavite coordinating with various recently formed cause-oriented groups composed mostly of farmers and fishermen.

"Armed regulars from the nearby Batangas and Bataan provinces, are monitored to be moving to various towns in Cavite, apparently to consolidate efforts for this campaign," the report said.

The report said Cavite would serve as a tactical-service support of the communist rebels operating in the "highly-influenced" coastal areas of Bataan and Zambales in their bid to control Manila Bay.

Cavite and Bataan are situated opposite each other at the mouth of the bay, about 13 kilometers from shore to shore.

Bataan is perceived to be under "effective control" of the communist insurgents and had gained notoriety last year when the NPA guerillas went out of their training camps and marched boldly along the town's major streets with their guns drawn.

Cavite, on the other hand, although a highly politicized province, remains largely unaffected by insurgency problem.

Aquino, Ramos Meet Mindanao Officials

[HK180919] [Editorial Report] Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in English at 0609 GMT on 18 March carries a live dialogue between President Aquino and South Cotabato local officials in General Santos City. Aquino is accompanied by some cabinet members, who also participate in the discussion.

Several South Cotabato officials air their concerns to the president. The last to address Aquino is Mayor Panes. He says that the income and capability of farmers and businessmen are adversely affected by several factors, which he enumerates, and these lead to the detriment of the socioeconomic growth of the province.

The president replies: "Thank you very much, Governor Sueno. And good afternoon to all of you, the honorable mayors and other officials here in General Santos City and in South Cotabato province. I am very happy to have this opportunity, first of all to listen to your concerns, and I have brought along with me the cabinet members who are directly concerned with those stated problems.

"In connection with the peace and order problem, I agree with the speaker that in trying to solve this problem, by setting up vigilante groups, we also have to take care that

we do not create more problems and that this particular group will not be (?unyielding). I mentioned this earlier to Secretary Santos, and I think he is busy working with the peace and order councils. And I think this will be one of the safeguards in the matter of monitoring and policing these vigilante groups.

"In the matter for the needs for roads and other infrastructure, particularly the airport here, in our last cabinet meeting, Secretary Rey Reyes of the Department of Transportation and Communication had told us the necessity of improving on the present airport, not only here but in other parts of the country. Secretary Dominguez has also told me that he is working very hard in order to make available to you some credit facilities. He is ready, I think, with P5 million. Of course, I know that it is way below what you have indicated, but when I get back to Manila, I will also meet with Central Bank Governor Jobo Fernandez, with regard to the rehabilitation of the rural banks. I think this is one of the main reasons why you are unable to get the necessary credit facilities."

Aquino invites Secretary Factoran to answer the question on ecology. Secretary Dominguez is also called to elaborate on what the Department of Agriculture can do with post-harvest problems. Secretary Santos discusses the peace and order councils in Cotabato, speaking to the officials in the Visayan local dialect. He later shifts to English, and says: "Our Armed Forces' capabilities are very strong. We have developed now a very high credibility for the members of our Armed Forces. But they need the support of the people in the barangays, especially the local government unit. Together, a partnership between us, by local government [words indistinct] and the law enforcement agencies. How can they win against us?"

The president thanks Secretary Santos, and says that Secretary Ramos will further elaborate on the peace and order councils. Ramos begins by thanking the president and all those present. He says: "May I elaborate on the new firearms policy I have promulgated as secretary of national defense? This is in the form of a directive to the chief of staff of the Armed Forces and the chief of the PC-INP. I have given an advance copy of this written memorandum to Governor Sueno and to Mayor Purisima, the president of your mayor's league, and of course also to Secretary Santos." Ramos elaborates on the formation of the civilian volunteer organizations: "I also mentioned, in addition to the organization of the civilian volunteer organizations mentioned by the president and Secretary Santos, the Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces have already embarked on pilot projects for the organization of the Citizens Armed Force Geographical Unit [CAFGU], which will eventually replace the CHDF.

Ramos continues: "South Cotabato is one of the primary pilot provinces. And, according to the report of your brigade commander, Colonel Orly Soriano, and your provincial commander, Colonel [name indistinct], you

have the potential of some 20,000 Citizens Armed Force members in South Cotabato. In fact, some of them have already been organized under the command of a designated regimental commander, attorney Jose Dado, one of the executives in DOLE [Department of Labor and Employment], who is a reserve officer and a West Point graduate.

"I think you understand the reason for the need to organize the peace and order council, the police, the volunteer organizations, and the CAFGU, because in counterinsurgency operations there are really four steps that must take place. And a different group takes care of each step in the procedure. The four steps are: To clear a barangay of the NPA or the enemies. Then we must hold that barangay after we have driven away the NPA. Then, after holding it, we must consolidate, and after consolidating, we must develop it.

"The military is responsible for clearing, with the help of some of the police. But after they clear a barangay they must move on to the next barangay that must be cleared. But they cannot stay behind to hold the area. It is at this moment when our civilian volunteer organizations, CAFGU, and the police enter. The consolidating is basically a local government responsibility, because then you start bringing back the residents that may have evacuated to start livelihood projects, and you start your other programs. But the main portion is the development, when you go all out in the delivery of the basic services needed by the people. If we can follow that step concurrently, the NPA cannot come back anymore to your liberated barangays.

"Now, lastly, with regard to the MNLF, the president's policy is already well-known to you, and it has also been articulated by various cabinet members, the Peace Commission, the Defense Department and the military. As you heard, the former assistant secretary general of the MNLF, (Haji Amma Baya), the majority of the local MNLF commanders, and their followers are tired of violence and terrorism, and they do not want to inflict this once more on their brother Muslims, on their brother Christians, on their fellow residents of Mindanao. We have gotten this kind of statement also from the senior spokesman of the MNLF, Datu Ray Ibrahim-Uy, before he departed for Jordan just 4 days ago. And so, let us continue the policy of persuasion, reconciliation, and attraction to the MNLF. Fortunately, in South Cotabato, the local cease-fire entered into between Commander Otto Salem and the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] commander, Colonel Orlando Soriano, has been faithfully adhered to on both sides. And, therefore, the law-abiding Muslims, especially their leaders, the leaders of our local government units, and the concerned citizenry have maintained that posture of harmony and goodwill. And we all know this afternoon, starting at 3 o'clock, instead of propagandizing or doing violent acts, the local MNLF are joining the Christian and the Muslim leaders in General Santos City for a prayer rally. This was agreed upon by your own mayors, the governor,

religious leaders, and the local AFP commanders. This is the kind of arrangement we would like happen in every town and in every province where there is an MNLF problem. Thank you very much."

Aquino then says that Health Secretary Bengzon, who is also the peace commissioner, has handed her a list of new and ongoing projects as of 1 March in connection with the service and action program, which is coordinated by the Peace Commission. She calls on Secretary Bengzon to give the current status of the Regional Consultative Commission.

Finally, the president thanks everyone for their presence and urges them to cooperate with the government in the regional and provincial development councils.

Speaker Mitra on Aquino Visit

*HK180601 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0400 GMT 18 Mar 88*

[Text] President Aquino, accompanied by members of her cabinet, is now in General Santos City. She was among those who viewed the solar eclipse. This afternoon the president will meet with Muslim leaders to discuss the government's livelihood programs as well as to receive proposals for resolving the region's problems.

In a related report, Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr said that President Aquino's trip to the south, which she took despite the fact that it was personally risky for her to do so, proves she is sincere about solving the Mindanao problem. In a radio interview, Mitra said the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] should take this fact into consideration. He said the president is less concerned about her personal safety than she is about manifesting to the people her desire to solve Mindanao's problems.

[Begin Mitra recording] This is what we have been telling the members of the OIC—that our president, despite various threats, went ahead with her trip to Mindanao so as to resolve this issue. She wants our brothers in Mindanao to know that we are concerned about them. That is the only way to focus attention on the problems there, through the presence of our president. Because when the president goes somewhere and officials know she is there, things start to move. That is how the government works. [end recording]

Aquino Welcomes Muslim's Surrender

*HK181313 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
1200 GMT 18 Mar 88*

[Text] President Aquino welcomed back to the fold of the law the MNLF's assistant secretary general for propaganda, Hadji Ahmad Bayam. She expressed satisfaction over Bayam's surrender, while emphasizing the government's stand that the solution to the Mindanao

problem is through peaceful means. The president is hopeful that with this manifestation of confidence in the government, others will follow his example.

Bayam offered his services to the government when he returned to the country on 2 March. He and MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari have different views on the way the Mindanao problem should be resolved.

Misuari 'Suspicious' of Peace Talks Offer
HK180729 Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST
in English 18 Mar 88 p 10

[From Kathleen Barnes in Manila]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has opened the door to renewed peace talks with Muslim rebel leaders met the chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) says he is "suspicious" of the Government's motives.

The Aquino Government has made the peace overture apparently because it is apprehensive over the possibility that the MNLF will achieve full membership in the powerful Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) when it meets in Amman next week.

MNLF chairman Nur Misuari said in an exclusive interview from Jeddah: "We have had no official notice that the Government is willing to re-open the peace talks. We're not sure on what basis they are offering peace talks. We are quite suspicious because we think their purpose is to hamstring our efforts to gain support for our cause."

MNLF leaders in Manila deny reports that they have sent peace "feelers" to the Aquino Government. Government officials say the initiative did not come from their side. It appears that both sides are willing to talk.

MNLF spokesman Dr Ustadz Zain Jali confirmed that he met Senator Aquilino Pimentel and Senator Agapita Aquino, who were members of the original Aquino Government peace panel, "because they wanted to talk".

Dr Ustadz Jali said there were no concrete results from their discussion: "I told them we would negotiate under three conditions: One, all negotiations must take place under the auspices of the OIC; secondly they must fulfil their past commitments to us and thirdly they must convince us they are sincere."

Mrs Aquino possibly took these statements as a peace overture, since she said she was willing to meet leaders of all Muslim factions and if Nur Misuari wished to reopen negotiations, he could make a formal request for a meeting and submit a proposed agenda.

Nur Misuari did not completely rule out the possibility of new peace talks. His sentiments were echoed by Dr Ustadz Jali in Manila.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos said he met MNLF military spokesman Datu Ray Ibrahim Uy on Tuesday. During that meeting, General Ramos said the MNLF leader told him the group did intend to renew its separatist war, whether or not the MNLF gained OIC membership.

Government officials have mounted an apparently unsuccessful diplomatic offensive to convince Islamic nations not to support the MNLF application for full membership. Quiet American diplomatic pressure may have been slightly more successful, say MNLF members.

Nur Misuari, who for many years has been lobbying in the Middle East for his cause, says that OIC membership was "a foregone conclusion. It's just a matter of formalities."

He said: "Membership itself is not as important as timing. I want to listen to the advice and wisdom of the OIC before I bring the matter before the OIC."

"There is a groundswell of support (among the Islamic countries) for our cause."

Nur Misuari confirmed that no formal application had yet been made to the 46-member organization but said that was just one more "formality".

In Manila, Dr Ustadz Jali said the OIC member states were "very angry" at the perceived "deceptions" of the Aquino Government.

In 1986 Mrs Aquino promised she would immediately implement the Tripoli Agreement of 1976 which grants autonomy to 13 predominantly Muslim provinces. She also refused to implement an agreement signed in Jeddah in January last year which promised autonomy to 10 additional provinces.

The Government believes that last year's Constitution, which provides for the formulation of a master plan for Muslim autonomy, supersedes the Tripoli Agreement.

The Tripoli Agreement continues to be the non-negotiable starting point for the MNLF to return to the bargaining table.

The MNLF has moved its elite fighters from their headquarters near Jolo to North Cotabato, which has a mixed Christian-Muslim population.

Dr Ustadz Jali assured the public on Wednesday that the group would not mount attacks today, which is the anniversary of the founding of the MNLF. Thousands of astronomers and tourists are in the North Cotabato area for today's solar eclipse and the military has been concerned about security.

Issues Conditions for Talks

HK181331 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 18 Mar 88 pp 1, 7

[By staff member Tess Villanueva]

[Text] The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) will not formally ask the Aquino Government for a resumption of the Mindanao peace talks because that's tantamount to "surrender," and MNLF official said yesterday.

Ustadz Zain Jali, MNLF coordinator and spiritual adviser, told reporters the message was relayed to him by chairman Nur Misuari from Amman, Jordan late Wednesday.

He said Misuari had dictated to him a statement on the Mindanao problem as well as MNLF's reported bid to gain membership at the influential Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Earlier, President Aquino said she was amenable to a top level dialogue with MNLF and other Muslim rebel factions if they formally ask for one.

At the same time, Misuari imposed three conditions for the resumption of the stalled peace talks, according to Jali. These are that the:

—Talks be held under the OIC auspices.

—Government fulfill its commitment to implement the Tripoli Agreement.

—Government show its sincerity in wanting to talk peace with the MNLF.

Meanwhile, Jali assured that today's observance of MNLF's 16th anniversary will be peaceful. MNLF flags will be raised in "liberated areas," he said.

In Manila, Muslim groups, including the Bangsamoro [Moro Nation] Unity for a Democratic and Just Action and the Moro Human Rights Center, are expected to march to Malacanang to demand "genuine" autonomy for Mindanao, Jali added.

He also denied having said that the MNLF was asking the Government for a dialogue. He clarified that what he said was that the MNLF was "open" to negotiations.

"The MNLF will not kneel down to Cory, even to Prophet Muhammad. We kneel down only to Allah," Jali said.

In his statement, Misuari said MNLF's membership application with the OIC has gained ground, especially after the President enacted into law the establishment of the Regional Consultative Council [as published] (RCC).

The OIC considers the RCC's establishment as a violation of the Tripoli Agreement, according to Misuari.

He added his brother-in-law, Edward Lim, will reject his nomination as an RCC member and that others will follow suit.

Misuari reiterated his warning that any Muslim who joins the RCC will be considered a "traitor" and will be ostracized by the Muslim community.

This developed as Jali described as "crazy" the proposal that Misuari be named to the RCC which will help Congress draft an organic act for the Mindanao autonomy as provided by the new Constitution.

Favors Federal Government

HK181325 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 18 Mar 88 p 2

[By staff member Tress M. Reyes]

[Text] Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) chairman Nur Misuari is in "full accord" with the federal form of government being espoused by Unlad Bayan [Nation Movers—National Movement for Economic Reconstruction and Survival], according to opposition leader Abul Khayr Alonto.

Alonto said he talked with Misuari by long distance telephone Wednesday night to brief him on Unlad Bayan's proposal to change the form of government from republican to federal.

Misuari, he said, was optimistic that peace would return to Mindanao under a federal form of government.

Misuari aide Ustadz Zain Jali, MNLF coordinator and spiritual adviser, agreed, saying that "federalization is an alternative so that the Philippines will not be dismembered."

He added that if federalization is adopted, MNLF will no longer insist on seceding from the Philippines.

But Jali also emphasized that the MNLF would still pursue membership in the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Alonto and Jali appeared in a press conference held at the Makati building owned by business tycoon Enrique Zobel, Unlad Bayan chairman.

Unlad Bayan, a recently-created multi-partisan and multi-sectoral movement, is pushing for a federal system to decentralize the power and influence from the center to the local government units.

A committee is now studying which federal system is best suited to the Filipino culture. Alonto is a member of the committee, headed by Vice President Salvador Laurel.

Alonto, also a member of the opposition Grand Alliance for Democracy (GAD), said Misuari is "closely watching" developments in the committee.

He added Unlad Bayan leaders have kept Misuari informed on the movement's activities through his trusted aides, particularly Jali.

Businessman Vicente Puyat, also a member of the Laurel committee, said Misuari had conveyed essentially the same message in a letter he received recently.

He added he would push for the creation of Mindanao as the first federal state that would serve as the model for the other seven or eight states that might be created.

Puyat also battled for the use of the Tripoli Agreement as the basis for the formation of an autonomous Mindanao "for one very simple reason: That is already a past commitment and the Government is running late in implementing it."

Talks With MNLF's Misuari Called 'Useless'
*BK181215 Manila PNA in English 1121 GMT
18 Mar 88*

[Text] Manila March 18 (PNA/OANA)—Philippine House Speaker Ramon Mitra Friday described as "useless" for the government to resume talks with Nur Misuari, self-styled leader of the banned Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Mitra was reacting to reports that Misuari, now in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, was asking for a resumption of talks on advice of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) and Malaysia.

But he insisted that the talks be held under the auspices of OIC which meets March 21 in Amman, Jordan.

Mitra, who recently led a delegation to Jeddah to oppose MNLF's membership application in the OIC, also assailed Misuari for issuing contradictory statements.

One report, he added, quoted Misuari as saying he was for the establishment of a separate state comprising the southern Philippine Islands of Mindanao, Sulu and Palawan.

In another report, the MNLF chieftain said "It is to the best interest of the country to remain intact and not be dismembered."

Mitra said: "if Misuari is for the dismemberment of the country, then there is nothing to talk about."

"But if Misuari considers himself a Filipino, accepts that this is his country and that the best interest of the country is to remain intact, then President Aquino can sit down and talk to him," the congressional leader said.

Unless Misuari admits this, he pointed out, "it is senseless to talk to him."

Mindanao Movement Supports Bid To Joint ICO
*BK181222 Quezon City RPN 9 Television
in English 1030 GMT 18 Mar 88*

[Text] In Metro Manila, a news conference was called this afternoon by Mindanao Independence Movement [MIM] and MNLF officials to express the MIM's solidarity with the MNLF's OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] membership cause. Among those present were Abdul Khayr Alonto, Almari Ukila and Lipason Agirani of the Bangsa Moro [Moro Nation] Solidarity, and Reuben Canoy of MIM.

[Begin Canoy recording in progress] The people of Mindanao—Muslims as well as Christians and highlanders and tribal minority groups—are united in the aspiration for an autonomous Mindanao under the federation concept of a federal republic, then an independent Mindanao. We have today issued or adopted a resolution on behalf of the Mindanao Independence Movement supporting the bid of the Moro National Liberation Front for regular membership in the Organization of Islamic Conference. [end recording]

President Aquino Holds Weekly Radio Program

[Slantlines denote passages in English]

HK140355 [Editorial Report] Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog at 1300 GMT on 13 March carries a 50-minute live program entitled "Magtanong sa Pangulo" ["Ask the President"] in which President Corazon Aquino answers questions from listeners, most of which are phoned in while others are relayed by moderator Orly.

Orly asks the president to comment on her recent meeting with the newly elected mayors and governors who, he mentions, gave her a standing ovation after her speech. President Aquino says, "First of all, my government is for decentralization, because it's natural and much better that our governors and mayors be given the requisite responsibility and authority to implement all our projects and to take care of their respective towns and provinces. This is why we should give them the corresponding authority. Decentralisation is what is needed. /You know, this is the first time that all governors and mayors have come to Manila to get together since my administration took over./ Earlier we knew that the OIC's [officers in charge] were the ones in charge. /So, right after the election it was only fitting that all of them are able to come here to meet, and not only with the other heads of the different departments, so that they can better relate their concerns to the heads of these departments; and we, in turn, can listen to their problems and see how we can effectively bring the services faster and more efficiently to our people."/

Orly asks in what way the government can offer its support. Mrs Aquino says, "What I clarified for them—/aside from my speech, I gave a dinner for the governors and city mayors—is to take a very active role in the Regional Development Council/ as well as the provincial and municipal development councils. Because I believe that the people who live in the provincial municipalities are the ones who know exactly what they need, what their problems are, and how they can be solved. First of all, I told them—because they made so many requests for roads, water supplies, electricity, and repairs to damaged buildings—I told them that we could not grant everything they asked for because of our government's limited resources. But I told them to talk to the Regional Development Council./You identify what are your top priorities. You have to agree on what the top priorities are, then we make sure that enough funds are allocated for those top priorities so that these projects will be implemented./ And I told them that perhaps this year one province can be granted financing immediately, while others have to wait till next year. /Because I do not want to spread the government's resources very thinly/ where what happens is that in one province only half a road is completed. It's better if we complete projects in one province—say, their water projects, or school buildings. /We cannot have what was being done in the past/ where a bridge was built without approach roads. What is needed is proper planning, whereby the governors and mayors determine which projects should be completed first.

A caller from Bataan asks for the president's comments on Manila Archbishop Jaime Sin's recent attack on some church-backed organizations for allegedly coddling communists. She asks how this will affect the relationship between Sin and members of the clergy as well as the state. President Aquino replies: /"As we all know, because of Cardinal Sin's position in the Catholic hierarchy, I suppose he believes that he is also entitled to give his views on issues which he feels very strongly about and which would affect members of the Catholic Church. Now, how his statements will affect his relationship with the other members of the clergy, I think, is an internal matter; and inasmuch as I do not also want Cardinal Sin interfering in government matters, I will not want to interfere either with his relationship with members of the clergy. So, whatever problems have to be ironed out between Cardinal Sin and the members of the clergy, I think I will leave that to them/—in the same way that the problems of government officials are not the cardinal's business. That should be very clear—to each his own territory."

A caller from Cebu City asks if it is proper to appoint a military man to a civilian position. He says the Customs Bureau has an army colonel serving as a supervisor at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and asks if there is not a constitutional provision against such appointments. Mrs Aquino says there is indeed a constitutional provision prohibiting the appointment of military officers in active service to civilian posts. She says she had

heard of such a case and had directed the customs commissioner to check on it, who found that there is no such officer in that position.

A Manila law student says he has read reports that a government ombudsman will soon be appointed. He asks what exactly an ombudsman is supposed to do. President Aquino replies: /"Our 1987 Constitution has provided for the appointment of an ombudsman and his deputies who shall be appointed by the president from a list of at least six nominees, prepared by the judicial and bar councils, and then from a list of three nominees for every vacancy thereafter. In the case of nominations from the judicial and bar council, when I appoint such nominee, they will not require confirmation by the Commission on Appointments. This is different from the other appointments mentioned in our Constitution. And all vacancies shall be filled within 3 months after they occur. And also, they shall serve for a term of 7 years, without reappointment.

"The ombudsman and his deputies, as protectors of the people, shall act promptly on complaints filed in any form or manner against public officials or employees of the government or any of its subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities. Government owned or controlled corporations are also included. The ombudsman and his deputies shall, in appropriate cases, notify the complainants of the action taken and the results thereof. I agree with you that the position of ombudsman is really very important because it carries a lot of authority; that is why the judicial and bar council is studying very carefully whom they will nominate so that this ombudsman will live up to not only the expectations of people like you, but certainly the expectations of all of our countrymen."/

The president continues: /"Incidentally Orly, nobody asked about the recent deportation of foreigners implicated in that case of those paedophiles. In fact when Commissioner Miriam Santiago informed me about this, of course I was very pleased because she has really done an excellent job during the short time that she has been in office./ You know, we women can boast about women like Miriam who have accomplished so much in only 2 months service. Everyone I have spoken to is very impressed by what Miriam has done. So I would like Miriam to know—as I told her when I appointed her to that position—that, as I promised, I will back her up all the way. /But in addition to the support I am giving her it would be good for our countrymen also perhaps to write and tell her what a good job she has been doing./ Because you know Orly, these helpers of mine in the government should be mentioned whenever they do something outstanding—instead of being mentioned only whenever something goes wrong. /There should be a balance—commend them when they do good and criticize them when they fall below our expectations."/

The president also answers questions about workers' minimum wage increases, protection for migrant workers in Saudi Arabia, hiked pensions for retired government employees, salary adjustments for public school

teachers, sports and reading facilities for provincial out-of-school youths, and assistance for depressed barangays needing water and electricity.

Thailand

Commentaries on Border Dispute Talks With Laos

Lao Sincerity Advocated

BK171553 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai
1030 GMT 16 Mar 88

["Article": "The Facts About the Thai-Lao Talks Cannot Be Distorted"]

[Text] The Thai Government has responded to the Lao invitation to send a delegation to resume negotiations in Vientiane on 17 March as a follow-up to the first talks in Bangkok. The progress of the upcoming talks will depend on mutual respect and the sincerity of both sides to end their conflicts. If either side still wants to take political advantage of the other, it will be difficult to achieve the goal of the talks, and the talks will be protracted. The longer the talks run, the greater the suspicions between the two sides will be. As for Thailand's stand on the second round of talks with Laos, Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila has reaffirmed that the Thai delegation will continue to adhere to the principle of sincerity in the talks—a policy the Thai Government has consistently pursued with Laos.

Whether the second round of talks will succeed depends on the sincerity of the Lao side in the negotiations. If we consider this issue deeply, we can see that the primary point of discussion in the first talks was the conflict over the border demarcation in the area between Phitsanulok Province and Sayaboury Province. It is known that the Thai-Lao negotiations stemmed from the fact that both sides desired to achieve concrete practical results—to end the fighting in Ban Romklao in Chat Trakan District of Phitsanulok Province. Both sides wished to seek a peaceful means to a solution of the dispute, with the longstanding feelings of neighborliness and kinship. Thailand and Laos' bond as fraternal countries with similar traditions and cultures, as well as the basis of equality and justice set forth in the French-Siamese Treaty of 1907, were regarded as the criteria in the first round of talks and the following rounds.

The cease-fire stemmed from LPDR Prime Minister Kaysone Phomvihane's 11 February letter to Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon suggesting that both sides declare a cease-fire and that a meeting of military delegations from both countries be held in Bangkok to solve the dispute. The Thai side responded positively to the Lao position of friendship and brotherly relations between Thailand and Laos. The Thai prime minister accepted the Lao prime minister's proposal for a cease-fire to be accomplished by separating both countries' troops in the disputed area and sending a Lao military delegation to consult with a Thai military delegation in

Bangkok on 16 February. The talks between both countries' military delegations were based on justice and principles. The talks resulted in a cease-fire agreement on 17 February, the first political talks between Thai and LPDR government delegations on 3 to 4 March in Bangkok, and the second round of talks to be held in Vientiane on 17 March.

Dear listeners, we can see that the Thai-Lao cease-fire stemmed from both sides' common desire to end the fighting and the loss of lives and property. The conflict is just like a boundary dispute between two brotherly countries, and can be settled by both sides through peaceful means. The cease-fire is not a matter of victory or defeat. It is, indeed, a common desire by both sides to have peace. Handing over the flower of peace and friendship is better than exchanging fire with each other. If one side believed it was victorious, it would be unnecessary for Thailand and Laos to hold talks as they are doing right now.

The Thai Government has been sincere. It has tried to pursue good relations with Laos and to settle problems through peaceful means. In solving the Thai-Lao boundary problem, the Thai Government is determined to promote peace for the peoples of Thailand and Laos. As a result, it has proposed the establishment of a joint Thai-Lao committee to survey, verify, and demarcate the border line between Thailand and Laos. We hope the Lao side will consider the Thai proposal seriously. If the joint Thai-Lao committee is established, it will be an important mechanism for future peace and cooperation between the two sides. In particular, economic cooperation would be further promoted since Thailand and Laos are brotherly countries. They should help each other like boats depending on water and tigers depending on the forest. Moreover, Thailand is an important gateway for Lao contact with the outside world. Thailand is willing to extend economic and trade cooperation with Laos. Greater cooperation between the two countries will be beneficial to national development for the well-being of the people along the two banks of the Mekong River. We hope the Lao side will realize these facts and turn to cooperation to settle the remaining problems as soon as possible because the problem is only a boundary conflict between two neighboring countries that share a common border and there is clear evidence on the matter. It is unnecessary for third countries or any international organizations to get involved or for useless propaganda. The problem can be settled by both Thailand and Laos, two brotherly countries. It is time for both sides to begin a new era of Thai-Lao friendship by settling their conflicts in order to preserve the ties of kinship between the fraternal people sharing the same Mekong River. Nobody can deny that Thailand and Laos share the same culture, traditions, and language, and that the feelings of the people are so close that they cannot be separated.

Lao Reply to Proposal Awaited
BK180105 Bangkok THE NATION in English
18 Mar 88 p 9

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] The second round of Thai-Lao political talks which starts in Vientiane today will show whether the Lao government has the "real political will" to solve the border dispute which led to the Romklao battle earlier this year, according to senior Thai Foreign Ministry officials.

They said the talks will concentrate on finding ways to prove which side has legitimate ownership of the disputed area of 70-80 square kilometres of rugged hills near the Thai-Lao border.

Sarot Chawanawirat spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, said that today's meeting essentially is a follow-up of the previous meeting in Bangkok March 3-4. "We are waiting for the Lao to reply to our proposal," he said.

Thailand proposed setting up a joint Thai-Lao border committee, similar to those of the Thai-Malaysian and Thai-Burmese committees, to survey, verify and demarcate the boundary between Thailand and Laos to prevent recurrence of border disputes.

Gen Sundhara Kongsompong, armed forces chief-of-staff, will lead the Thai side on the proposed committee.

Sarot said both sides are expected to agree on the revival and improvement of the existing joint Thai-Lao Cooperation Committee at national and local levels, established under the framework of the 1979 Thai-Lao joint communique.

Commenting on the proposal, Sarot said it is reasonable because it will provide a mechanism for both countries "to find a durable and peaceful solution to problems along the 1,700-kilometre border."

A diplomat from one ASEAN country, who monitors Laos, noted that Vientiane should respond in kind to the Thai eagerness to solve the border problems.

According to unofficial reports, there are about 42 areas along the border where demarcation is unclear.

Sarot said Thailand wants the proposed joint border committee will be in a position to deal with the unclear demarcation. [sentence as published]

"If both sides fail to reach an agreement on the joint committee, it would be a real setback for the Thai-Lao ties," the ASEAN diplomat said.

However, the Lao side has argued that the proposed committee should confine its activities to resolving the disputed area near Ban Romklao, which Laos claims is in its Sayaboury Province.

Sarot said that Thailand is willing to accept the Lao suggestion that the joint committee will settle this particular disputed area first.

In the first round of political talks in Bangkok March 3-4, Brig Gen Thonglai Kommasit, deputy chief of the General Political Department of Lao People's Armed Forces and head of the Lao People's Armed Forces and head of the Lao negotiating team, said that he would present the Thai proposal regarding the joint committee to the Lao government.

"There are no reasons to believe that Laos would not want to accept the Thai proposal," said Sarot.

However, it is no secret that Laos has been playing for time to put pressure on Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawet-sila, whom Vientiane thinks is advocating a hardline foreign policy toward Laos.

Some analysts said that Laos has already achieved all of its objectives namely: a cease-fire, troops separation from the disputed area, and political negotiations. Therefore, it would be in Vientiane's advantage to go slow on the current political negotiations.

A Western diplomat in Bangkok said Laos is exploiting Thailand's internal conflict between the government coalition and the opposition bloc. Several opposition MPs have said they would grill Sitthi on the Thai-Lao conflict and Thailand's apparent hardline policy toward Indochinese states.

After the cease-fire agreement, both Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon and Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut defended Sitthi's handling of the Thai-Lao conflict. They also said that the Foreign Ministry played an important role in the talks between Chawalit and Gen Sisavat Keobounphan, chief-of-staff of the Lao People's Armed Forces in Bangkok, which led to the cease-fire agreement on Feb 17.

Sitthi said that he would visit Laos to cement bilateral ties if the first round of Thai-Lao political talks in Bangkok March 3-4 produced positive outcome. As it turned out, the outcome did not warrant his visit to Vientiane.

A senior Thai Foreign Ministry official told THE NATION that Sitthi would not travel to Laos even if both sides have agreed on the setting up of a joint Thai-Lao border committee. "The momentum has disappeared," the official said.

The Thai contention is against the Lao insistence of citing only Article 2 of the treaty which stipulates that a small seasonal stream leading to Phu Soi Dao is the borderline between Phitsanulok and Laos' Sayaboury Province.

Thailand contends that the treaty takes the Hueng Nga River as the borderline starting from Phu Khao Mieng.

If the second round of talks fails, the Thai side will likely consider it an indication of the Lao "insincerity." Some Thai Foreign Ministry officials believe that Vientiane wants to continue to drive a wedge between the Thai military.

However, Gen Chawalit has said the two countries will not resume fighting over the disputed area even if the political negotiations ended in a deadlock. But what will happen next is anybody's guess.

Paper Praises Policy Change Toward Laos
BK180857 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai
18 Mar 88 p 9

[Commentary by Thanasarit Satawethin: "The New Thai Attitude Toward Laos"]

[Excerpts] On 11 March senior officials of government agencies concerned with Thai-Lao relations, including the foreign minister, the National Security Council secretary general, the secretary general to the prime minister, and the commanders of the three Armed Forces, held a frank and broad discussion and agreed that Thailand must change its attitude and thinking toward Laos in the interest of a smooth relationship with Laos.

The meeting attendees agreed that the promotion of economic and political cooperation will enhance improved Thai-Lao relations and that such cooperation is better than armed confrontation. Economic assistance to Laos will emphasize increased convenience for the transiting of goods and agricultural training. Increased exchanges of visits by various levels of leaders was also suggested.

Most important, the meeting agreed that Thailand should discard the attitude that Thailand is a bigger and superior country to Laos and adopt a view of Laos as an equal and a close neighbor.

This change in the Thai attitude is a major reversal of the basic Thai policy on Laos. However, the change—which should have occurred long ago—is not too late and is a good omen for the revival of old, historic ties between the two countries. The change also means that national interests will be better served. [passage omitted]

It appears that in Thai-Lao relations to date, Thailand has used its superiority to pressure compliance from Laos, as evidenced by the regular Thai practice of obstructing the transit of goods to Laos. This pressure

has created many difficulties for Laos because it is a landlocked country and has to rely considerably on Thailand in international trade.

However, it is evident that the Thai pressure against Laos has not benefited Thailand's national interests at all. It has created a negative image of Thailand in Laos and forced Laos to adopt a new, more difficult route to the sea along Highway 9 with Vietnamese assistance.

The Thai pressure has failed completely because in addition to turning a close neighboring country into an adversary, it has unnecessarily pushed Laos closer to Vietnam. Although pushing Laos closer to Vietnam is not Thailand's design, Thailand, with its self-destructive foreign policy, has only itself to blame.

The change in the Thai attitude toward Laos that resulted from the 11 March meeting of senior government officials is very suitable. It is hoped that the measures which will follow will come in the form of using Thailand's superiority to persuade Laos to see the benefits it stands to gain through the kind assistance of its neighbor.

The forthcoming Thai assistance—which Laos had sought, but hardly received—should create a climate conducive to improved bilateral relations and, taking into account racial and cultural ties between the Thai and Lao people, this should be the case.

In the 1960's the United States used its superiority to pressure compliance in many aspects from Thailand, including Thai participation in the 1962 Geneva conference on Laos. Thailand had no choice then. But Thailand's pressure on Laos did not yield the desired result because the offer of assistance from another country gave Laos an alternative.

The change in the Thai policy line toward Laos is highly welcomed and a good sign; its implementation should be vigorous and liberal.

In any event, a certain attitude, which was not mentioned in the outcome of the 11 March meeting, should be changed as a basic of foreign policy toward Laos. That is, Laos should be regarded as a sovereign and independent country, rather than as an underling or lackey of other countries.

A change in this aspect of Thailand's attitude should contribute well to the improvement of Thai-Lao relations and could impact upon the settlement of other Southeast Asian problems facing Thailand.

Chawalit Testimony Prompts News Briefing
BK180041 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
18 Mar 88 p 3

[Text] Army Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut's testimony in Parliament on the Ban Romklao fighting prompted a press briefing yesterday that left reporters more puzzled than informed.

A military spokesman said there were "inaccuracies" in coverage of Gen Chawalit's remarks, but declined to say what those errors were because he would then be revealing state secrets.

Lt-Gen Sihadet Bunnak, in reviewing the army chief's testimony, said Gen Chawalit spoke before the House committee because he was invited to testify by Defence Minister Phaniang Kantarat.

He said the general gave "frank answers" in an "atmosphere of understanding".

Although the issues Gen Chawalit discussed—including the fact that the resettlement of about 20,000 Hmong in the Ban Romklao area may have sparked the conflict—were official secrets, he chose not to conceal them from the MPs, Lt-Gen Sihadet said.

He said the committee's chairman, Prachakon Thai leader Samak Suntharawet, agreed he would be the person to brief reporters after the meeting and would not raise sensitive matters in detail.

Lt-Gen Sihadet repeated several times that Mr Samak gave "the best" press briefing possible.

However, he said he was concerned that some reporters, in their attempt to investigate the incident, would uncover certain facts and write a story based on "bits and pieces", which he said would result in inaccurate reports.

The spokesman urged the Press to report the Thai-Lao situation "constructively" because talks were still under-way.

Foreign Ministry's Role in Dispute Examined
BK171239 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai
25 Feb 88 p 2

["Day to Day" column by Roeng Ekkarat]

[Text] Many people have wondered what the Foreign Ministry has been doing about the armed confrontation in the border area between Thailand's Phitsanulok Province and Laos' Sayaboury Province and the subsequent cease-fire agreement.

The ministry has allowed the military to handle diplomatic and negotiating duties, just as the Interior Ministry, the Local Administration Department, the Accelerated Rural Development Office, and other agencies have allowed the military to carry out the Green Northeast Development Project.

If we carefully review the role of the Foreign Ministry, we will find that the head of the "snob" ministry conducted a policy of observing other agencies to see what measures would be taken, because he had used unbecoming language that amounted to slander of the Lao ambassador.

The use of unbecoming language by the head of the Foreign Ministry was widely criticized as inappropriate and unsuitable in handling the country's affairs.

Following this wide criticism, the foreign minister has acted more carefully and has become silent.

Many people stated their opinions during the fighting. The Foreign Ministry said there would be no negotiations until Laos withdrew its troops from Thai territory.

Negotiations were held between Sisavat and Chawalit even though Laos had not yet withdrawn its troops.

The Foreign Ministry said that they were not negotiations, only a consultation.

It is strange to see that a consultation ended with an agreement being signed by both sides!

Before Sisavat came to talk with Chawalit, the Foreign Ministry had stated, as a precondition for talks with Laos, that it would not negotiate with the Lao deputy foreign minister, Souban Salitthilat.

Laos had proposed to negotiate with Thailand without preconditions. Regarding our refusal to negotiate with Souban, Laos said it is an independent country and appointing representatives for negotiations is its own affair and under its authority. Other countries have no right asking Laos to appoint certain representatives for negotiations. Because of these preconditions, no negotiations took place. There were only consultations where an agreement was signed.

Some people have asked where the Foreign Ministry was. During a panel discussion of the Thai-Lao problem held at Chulalongkorn University some days ago, Kawi Chongkitthawon of THE NATION said, "Nobody knows exactly what was going on in Ban Romklao, especially after the cordial meeting between the leaders of both countries. The people and the mass media have misunderstood the issue while the Foreign Ministry has worked behind the scenes of the truce talks."

This is the answer to the question: Where is the Foreign Ministry?

The Foreign Ministry is still here, but it has worked behind the scenes. It does not need boisterousness, faces, and reputation!

Prem Meets With Soviet Ambassador About Visit
BK180541 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
18 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon will pay an official visit to the Soviet Union in May, government spokesman Michai Wirawaithaya said yesterday.

Gen Prem, he said, confirmed his upcoming visit with Soviet Ambassador Anatoliy Ivanovich Valkov, who paid a courtesy call on him at Government House yesterday.

An official letter confirming the visit will be sent to the Kremlin at a later date, he said.

The date and duration of the visit is to be worked out by the Foreign Ministry and the Soviet Embassy.

Mr Michai said the Soviet envoy had asked Gen Prem which Soviet officials he would like to meet and which cities he would like to visit and offered to make arrangements.

The prime minister, he added, has expressed a desire to meet with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov.

Joint Bombing Raids on Communist Strongholds
BK171545 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1503 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Hat Yai, March 17 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysian and Thai aircraft bombed four suspected major communist terrorist strongholds along the common border during their two-week joint military air exercise which ended Thursday.

Combined ground troops had been inserted near the targets by helicopters and were combing the suspected areas to check the results of the air attacks, exercise director Brig Gen (Air) Huang Chew Siong told reporters here.

He said the results of the air assault would be made known to the Malaysian and Thai authorities in the next few days because the ground troops had to go through inaccessible mountainous jungle areas.

Brig Gen Huang said the air attacks on 'actual' targets, like suspected terrorist strongholds, were to make the exercise cost effective.

The targets were selected based on intelligence gathered by the Malaysian Army's Second Division headquarters and the Thai military division responsible for southern Thailand, he added.

The last attack was a few days ago and the targets were suspected communist strongholds, said the other exercise director, Group Captain Anek Phusawan of the Royal Thai Air Force [RTAF].

It is estimated that between 1,000 to 1,500 communist terrorists operate in the jungle clad hills of the common border.

About 240 personnel and 25 aircraft from both air forces took part in the exercise. Also present at the closing ceremony which was officiated by Commander in Chief of the RTAF Air Chief Marshal Woranat Aphichari, was Chief of Malaysian Air Force [RMAF] Lt Gen Mohamed Ngah Said.

Brig Gen Huang said the attack aircraft included six RMAF A-4 Skyhawks and a similar number of RTAF A-37 Dragonfly attack aircraft.

Brig Gen Huang said the exercise, seventh in a series which began in 1982, was successful, adding that both air forces could operate more closely in combined operations and that there were no mishaps.

Increased Naval Patrols Stem Refugee Influx
BK180051 Bangkok THE NATION in English
18 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] Trat—Police Chief Phao Sarasin yesterday said smuggling of Vietnamese into Thailand through this eastern coastal province has decreased since the government started blocking Vietnamese boats heading toward Thai shores in January.

He said stronger patrols along the eastern coast by the navy and marine police also resulted in fewer captures of goods smuggled into Kampuchea.

The patrol is to be continued, said Pol Gen Phao, who yesterday arrived here for results of an investigation into reported rackets smuggling Vietnamese from the Kampuchean coast.

The Interior Ministry-appointed investigation team led by Pol Col Seri Temiyawet, deputy commander of police headquarters controlling the eastern provinces, has finished its one-and-half-month probe. Seri briefed Phao on the findings yesterday.

The investigation team discovered that local officials, probably up to the level of deputy district chief, are involved in the Vietnamese smuggling, according to police sources in the investigation.

Some kamnans and village headmen have already been arrested for their involvement, the sources said.

The Interior Ministry has transferred the governor and district chiefs in Trat, but said the reshuffle had nothing to do with the refugee smuggling.

Seri's report says the majority of Vietnamese now seeking asylum in Thailand are not refugees fleeing persecution in their country, but are only seeking better lives abroad.

The report says the smuggling is being carried out in an organized manner, involving Khmers and Vietnamese holding Thai nationality.

From January until this week, 478 Vietnamese were pushed back to sea before they could land on Thai shores in Trat.

Editorial Explores Ways To Seek Return of Lintel
BK181111 Bangkok NAEON in Thai
18 Mar 88 p 5

[Editorial: "Political Tactics"]

[Text] The return of the Narai Banthomsin lintel has become a very difficult issue. The American possessor of the antique has set preconditions that block almost all of the possibilities for returning the lintel. It will be difficult to resort to tough measures by using laws to put pressure on the possessor, because Thailand and the United States signed a treaty on the return of artifacts after the stone lintel had already been taken to the United States.

The only method we can pursue is to use political tactics to press the possessor of the stone lintel into feeling uneasy. Eventually, this could become an exchange of benefits between the Thai and U.S. Governments.

The Thai Government must show the U.S. Government that the return of the lintel would be beneficial to the image of the United States. In the past, the Thai people have not been satisfied with the United States because it exerted pressure on Thailand over the copyright amendment bill and intimidated the Thai Government into helping the Indochinese refugees. The Thai people feel the United States is not a genuine ally, but merely an ally that is trying to take advantage of Thailand—which results in adverse consequences for the United States.

Not every artifact collected by the Americans is important or necessary for the United States. However, all of these artifacts are very important in the hearts of the Thai people. Under the present circumstances, Thailand and the United States still have a chance to achieve a satisfactory result for both sides.

The use of political bargaining tactics will help improve conditions. It is not appropriate to allow the government to work on this issue alone. The education minister and the director general of the Fine Arts Department should depend fully on the politicians and the mechanism of the private sector. It should not be stubbornly self-opinionated because the official system has complicated steps and regulations. It will take a long time to complete negotiations.

The opening of the historic Khao Phanom Rung Park could be delayed until the stone lintel is returned to its original place. The education minister and the director general of the Fine Arts Department should prove their capability to effectively use human resources and conditions.

Vietnam

VNA Carries Diplomatic Note on China Talks
BK171539 Hanoi VNA in English 1525 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 17—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, at a press conference here this afternoon, made public the following note it had earlier in the day handed to Chinese Ambassador Li Shichun:

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and wishes to convey the following:

True to its constant policy of granting precedence to the fundamental interests of both peoples, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has continuously worked for the normalization of relations between the two countries and the restoration of the traditional friendship between the people of Vietnam and that of China, and will henceforth persevere along this line.

It is regrettable that while it still has to respond to Vietnam's goodwill, the Chinese side has recently dispatched its naval forces to occupy the two reefs of Chu Thap [Fiery Cross] and Chau Vien [Cuarteron] and a number of other reefs within the Vietnamese Archipelago of Truong Sa [Spratly] and attack unarmed Vietnamese freighters in the proximity of Sinh Ton Island of this same archipelago. The aforesaid action of the Chinese side not only fails to contribute to the settlement of differences, but even aggravates the tension in the relations between the two countries, causes deep concern among Southeast Asian countries and runs counter to the growing trend of dialogue in the region.

Adhering to the principle of non-use of force in the settlement of disputes between states, the Vietnamese side unswervingly advocates talks to solve disputes between the two countries concerning the Truong Sa Archipelago as well as their common border and the Hoang Sa [Paracel] Archipelago. The Vietnamese side takes interest in the view expressed on September 24th, 1975 by former Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping during the talks held with the late General Secretary Le Duan in Beijing, whereby between the two countries exists a dispute over the two archipelagoes which can be discussed among them. In the years 1974, 1977 and 1978 the two countries effectively held talks regarding the border problem inland and in the Tonkin Gulf, talks which have been temporarily suspended since March 1980 on the proposal of the Chinese side.

In the above-mentioned spirit, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam proposes that the Vietnamese and the Chinese Governments designate representatives for the holding of talks, the level, venue and date of which shall be mutually agreed upon. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese side proposes that both sides commit themselves not to use force to settle disputes. It is hoped that in the interest of the two peoples and for the sake of peace, stability and cooperation in Southeast Asian the Chinese side will react favourably to this constructive proposal on the part of Vietnam. The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is convinced that the eventual holding of talks between Vietnam and China in order to solve the problems already mentioned conforms to the interests and aspiration of the two peoples and will be widely welcomed by regional and world opinion.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China the assurances of its consideration."

UN Envoy Meets Perez de Cuellar Over Spratlys
*BK171720 Hanoi VNA in English 1542 GMT
17 Mar 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 17—Mrs. Nguyen Binh Thanh, acting head of the Vietnamese mission to the United Nations, met with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar in New York on March 16 to inform him of China's acts of aggression against Vietnam's Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago. Deputy secretary general and special representative of the secretary general for humanitarian question in South East Asia, R. Ahmed, was present on the occasion.

Nguyen Binh Thanh handed to the U.N. secretary general the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry's statement of March 14 and its note of March 15 to the Chinese Foreign Ministry and asked the U.N. secretary general to circulate these two documents at the General Assembly and the Security Council. The U.N. secretary general said he hoped that the two concerned parties would find a solution to the dispute and expressed his readiness to contribute to that solution.

Red Cross Aid Requested To Rescue Ships
*BK181038 Hanoi International Service in English
1000 GMT 18 Mar 88*

[Text] Representative of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry on Thursday [17 March] informed representative of the International Red Cross that the Chinese side has agreed not to let its warships prevent Vietnamese boats from coming to the rescue of the burning Vietnamese ships in the single island group of the Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago. The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry's representative asked the International Red Cross to help both Vietnam and China discharge this duty.

Proposal for PRC Talks on Spratlys Viewed
*BK171605 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 17 Mar 88*

[Station commentary: "Our Goodwill"]

[Text] The developments taking place at the Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago are drawing public attention inside and outside Southeast Asia and are causing anxiety for those who are longing for peace and stability in this region.

The facts clearly show that over the years, the situation in the Eastern Sea encompassing the Truong Sa Archipelago had, in general, been calm and life there had continued to be normal. The situation there has suddenly become tense since January 1988 when China sent many warships to the area of the Truong Sa Archipelago to occupy the two coral reefs of Chu Thap [Fiery Cross] and Chau Vien [Cuarteron] as well as other reefs that are under Vietnam's sovereignty. Fighting broke out on 14 March when Chinese naval forces unjustifiably fired at Vietnamese freighters while the latter were carrying out normal operations within their territorial waters.

Our people and government viewed as very serious this violent act of the Chinese as it violates the sovereignty of Vietnam and poses a threat to its security. This is a blatant violation of international law and the UN Charter.

On the basis of evidence and historical arguments, our people have consistently asserted our sovereignty over the Truong Sa Archipelago as well as the Hoang Sa [Paracel] Archipelago. However, against the background of the existing dispute which threatens to become more tense, what is the best way to solve this problem? We have chosen to hold talks with the Chinese to solve differences between our two sides over the Truong Sa Archipelago as well as the disputes over the border and the Hoang Sa Archipelago. Our policy is consistent, and our stand is unswerving, taking into account the fundamental interests of the two peoples. We have made constant efforts to normalize relations between the two countries and to restore the traditional friendship between the peoples of Vietnam and China.

In reality, proceeding from a respect for the principle of nonuse of force in solving disputes between nations, we have on several occasions proposed talks with the Chinese side, and bilateral talks did take place in the years 1974, 1977, and 1978. But the talks have been suspended since March 1980 on the proposal of the Chinese side. Our policy to hold talks with the Chinese side to solve differences also conforms to common aspirations and the general trend currently prevailing in international relations.

Many conflicts between one country and another over the problem of borders and territory have eventually ended in reconciliation through negotiation. The talks between Thailand and Laos following the fighting in the Boten area in Sayaboury Province can be seen as a typical example.

Once again, proceeding from its correct stand and unswerving good will, our government has proposed that the Chinese Government designate its representatives to hold talks—the level, venue, and date of which shall be mutually agreed upon. And pending this process, we propose that the two sides refrain from using force to solve their dispute. We hold that negotiation is the most correct and reasonable way to solve disputes and differences. This conforms to the aspirations and interests of the peoples of China and Vietnam and also to the aspirations of peoples in Southeast Asia and in the world.

We are looking forward to receiving a positive response from the Chinese side to our good-will proposal.

Radio Cites NHAN DAN

*BK180220 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 17 Mar 88*

[18 March NHAN DAN commentary: "Our Just Stand and Good-Willed Attitude"]

[Text] The fact that the Chinese authorities have, for the past 2 months and more, stepped up activities of territorial invasion and military provocations against Vietnam in the Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago area has been arousing indignation among our people and deep concern among public opinion in Southeast Asia and in the rest of the world. After having used military force to seize the two coral reefs of Chu Thap [Fiery Cross] and Chau Vien [Cuarteron] and other reefs belonging to Vietnam's Truong Sa Archipelago, on 14 March they again ordered their warships to attack unarmed Vietnamese transport vessels in the area of Sinh Ton Island in the same archipelago.

The Chinese side has not only tried to explain away its erroneous actions but also has sought to cast the blame on us. However, anyone who respects what is right understands that Vietnam has no wish, nor, for that matter, does it have a policy to seek conflict with China. We have called the world's attention to the fact that the aforementioned actions by China contravene international law, run counter to the trends of our time, and violate Vietnam's territorial sovereignty.

Like any other nation, we consider the defense of national sovereignty and territory our sacred obligation. The widespread popular activities launched throughout our country in support of Truong Sa reflect the will and feelings of our people and soldiers in the current situation. Nevertheless, what our people want is not confrontation with China. The 17 March note sent by our Ministry of Foreign Affairs to its Chinese counterpart

clearly states our stand which is one of consistently respecting the fundamental interests of the two peoples of Vietnam and China and persistently striving for the normalization of bilateral relations and the restoration of the traditional friendship between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples. The note stresses the Vietnamese attitude of consistent respect for the principle of nonuse of force in the settlement of disputes between nations and recalls earlier talks between the two sides on the issue of the border on land and in the Gulf of Tonkin. It proposes that the Governments of Vietnam and China send their representatives to hold talks, the level, venue, and date of which are to be mutually agreed upon, in order to settle the differences between the two countries over the Truong Sa Archipelago as well as other disputes concerning their common border and the Hoang Sa [Paracel] Archipelago.

Meanwhile, the Vietnamese side proposes that both sides commit themselves not to use force to settle disputes.

Our Foreign Ministry's 17 March note reflects our good-willed attitude. It points to the correct and rational way to overcome the current dangerous tension. Vietnam's proposal for talks is consistent with the desire and interests of the peoples of Vietnam and China and with the interests of peace, stability, and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

We are awaiting a positive response from the Chinese side toward Vietnam's constructive proposal. Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping said some 12 years and more ago that the two countries could hold discussions to settle their dispute over these two archipelagoes: why, then, should we not do so today?

Since to enter into negotiations with Vietnam to settle disputes is to act according to reason, how could the Chinese side not be ready to do so?

Further From NHAN DAN

*BK180738 Hanoi VNA in English 0713 GMT
18 Mar 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 18—The fact that the Chinese authorities have, for more than two months now, stepped up encroachments on Vietnam's territory and armed provocations against Vietnam in the Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago have been causing indignation to the Vietnamese people and deep concern to the public in Southeast Asia and elsewhere in the world, notes NHAN DAN in a commentary today.

The paper says:

"After having used military force to occupy Chu Thap [Fiery Cross] and Chau Vien [Cuarteron] and some other coral reefs in Vietnam's Truong Sa Archipelago, on March 14 they sent warships to attack Vietnam's unarmed freighters at the Sinh Ton group of islands in the archipelago.

"The Chinese side has not only tried to justify its own erroneous actions but also sought ways to put the blame on Vietnam. But anyone in his right mind knows that Vietnam has neither intention nor policy of provoking China.

"We have drawn public attention to the fact that those acts of China were contrary to international law and the trend of our time and were encroaching upon Vietnam's territorial sovereignty. Like any other nation, we consider the defence of the sovereignty and territory of our nation as our sacred duty. The recent mass activities organized throughout the country for the sake of Truong Sa have manifested the will and feelings of the Vietnamese people and combatants in the present situation."

"Yet," NHAN DAN stressed, "what our people want is not confrontation with China. The note sent on March 17 by the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry to the Chinese Foreign Ministry made clear our consistent stance which is to respect the fundamental interests of Vietnam and China, and persistently work for the normalization of the relations and restoration of the traditional friendship between the peoples of Vietnam and China.

"By stressing Vietnam's respect of the principle of non-violence in resolving disputes between states and recalling the previous talks between the two countries on their border problem on land and in the Tonkin Gulf, the note proposed that the Governments of Vietnam and China send their representatives to the negotiating table at a level and venue and on a date to be mutually agreed upon in order to solve the differences between the two countries concerning the Truong Sa Archipelago as well as the disputes on the border and the Hoang Sa [Paracel] Archipelago. Pending the holding of negotiations, Vietnam proposes that both sides commit themselves not to use force to settle the dispute."

NHAN DAN continues:

"The March 17 note of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry has shown Vietnam's goodwill in seeking a correct and reasonable solution to the dangerously tense situation that is unfolding in the Truong Sa Archipelago. Vietnam's proposal for talks conforms with the aspiration and interests of the peoples of Vietnam and China, and serves peace, stability and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

"We are waiting for China's positive response to our constructive proposal. More than 12 years ago, Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping once said that the two countries could discuss with each other to solve their dispute concerning the two archipelagoes. Wouldn't it be impossible to do so now?"

"Embarking on talks with Vietnam to solve disputes is to act with reason. Wouldn't China be unprepared?" The paper asks in conclusion.

Thailand's Prem Condolences Death of Pham Hung
BK180228 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English
1500 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] On 14 March 1988 the Thai prime minister, General Prem Tinsulanon, had conveyed to His Excellency Vo Van Kiet, acting premier of the Council of Ministers of Vietnam, a condolatory message regarding the demise of Mr Pham Hung, former prime minister of the Social Republic of Vietnam. In the message, Prime Minister Prem offered his condolences to the family of the late prime minister and to the people and the Government of Vietnam for this great loss.

The same day Thai Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila also sent a condolatory message to the Vietnamese Foreign Minister, Nguyen Co Thach, on the same occasion.

India, Syria Mourn Pham Hung
BK170340 Hanoi VNA in English 1516 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 17—Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi yesterday came to the Vietnamese Embassy in New Delhi to pay his last homage to Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Hung and signed in the mourners' book.

Earlier on March 14-15, among the homagers at the embassy were Natjar Singh, minister of state for the Indian Communist Parties CPI and CPI(M).

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a wreath to the Vietnamese Embassy in Damascus where a memorial service for Chairman Pham Hung was held on March 14-15. Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, together with several cabinet members, came to the embassy to pay floral tributes and signed in the mourners' book.

Many Politburo members of the Syrian Arab Ba'th Socialist Party and the Communist Party of Syria, and representatives of other political organizations and mass organizations in Damascus also came to pay their last respects to the late Vietnamese leader.

Talyzin Departs After Funeral
BK180208 Hanoi VNA in English 1527 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 17—The Soviet party and government delegation to the funeral service of the late Chairman Pham Hung left here for home today.

The delegation, led by Nikolay Talyzin, alternate Politburo member of the Central Committee of the CPSU and first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, was seen off at the airport by Dong Sy Nguyen, Politburo member of the CPV Central Committee and others.

Soviet Ambassador D.I. Kachin was also present.

Talyzin Departs After Funeral

*BK180208 Hanoi VNA in English 1527 GMT
17 Mar 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 17—The Soviet party and government delegation to the funeral service of the late Chairman Pham Hung left here for home today.

The delegation, led by Nikolay Talyzin, alternate Politburo member of the Central Committee of the CPSU and first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, was seen off at the airport by Dong Sy Nguyen, Politburo member of the CPV Central Committee and others.

Soviet Ambassador D.I. Kachin was also present.

Countries Sending Pham Hung Condolences Listed

*BK171708 Hanoi VNA in English 1513 GMT
17 Mar 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 17—The Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and the Vietnamese Council of Ministers have received messages of condolences over the death of chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Hung from:

The French Communist Party Central Committee,

The Japanese Communist Party Central Committee,

The Communist Party of Italy Central Committee,

The Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Portugal Central Committee,

The Communist Party of India Central Committee,

The Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee,

The Communist Party of Belgium Central Committee,

The Communist Party of Greece Central Committee,

The Central Committee of the Progressive Party of the Working People of Cyprus,

The Central Committee of the People's Progressive Party of Guyana,

The Communist Party of Sri Lanka Central Committee,

The Congolese Party of Labour Central Committee,

The Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee,

The Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee,

The Socialist People's Party of Mexico Central Committee,

The Chilean Socialist Party,

The Japanese Socialist Party,

Sanro Nosake, honorary chairman of the Japanese Communist Party Central Committee,

Maxime Remetz, secretary of the French Communist Party Central Committee,

Vladimir Gusev, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union,

Willi Stoph, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic,

The secretary general of the United Nations,

The prime minister of the Republic of India,

The prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan,

The prime minister of Sweden,

The prime minister of the French Republic,

The president of the Republic of the Philippines,

The president of the Republic of Guinea,

The president of the Republic of Benin,

The president of the Republic of Cape Verde,

The president of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau,

The chairman of the National Assembly and the prime minister of the Syrian Arab Republic,

The leader of the September One Revolution of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya,

The prime minister of Malaysia,

The chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma,

The Japanese prime minister,

The prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan,

The Thai prime minister,

The acting premier of the People's Republic of China,

The general secretary of the Ospaal [expansion unknown],

The Council of Europe, and from foreign ministers of many countries and many ambassadors to Vietnam, from different friendship organizations and Vietnamese residents' associations in various countries.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Laos
BK180820 Hanoi VNA in English 0710 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 18—Vietnam and Laos have recently signed in Vientiane an agreement on bilateral economic cooperation in 1988 and a protocol on Vietnam's assistance and loans to Laos this year.

The signatories were Dang Thi, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, Cabinet Minister, chairman of the Vietnam Committee for Economic and Cultural Cooperation with Laos and Kampuchea; and head of the Vietnamese delegation to the 11th session of the Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between Vietnam and Laos held in Vientiane on March 16 and Inkong Mahavong, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, Cabinet Minister, chairman of the Lao Committee for Economic and Cultural Cooperation with Vietnam and Kampuchea, and head of the Lao delegation to the said meeting.

Under the two documents, Vietnam will help Laos train more cadres, build Roads No 8 and No 9 in Laos, step up the production of gypsum, build more industrial establishments and welfare projects, and transport goods and fuel. The two sides will further promote their bilateral cooperation in various forms such as joint venture, production on order, contraction, etc.

The Vietnamese delegation was received in Vientiane on March 16 by Nouhak Phoumsavan, Political Bureau member of the LPRP Central Committee and first vice-chairman of the Lao Council of Ministers.

VNA Reviews USSR Trade Ties Since 1958
BK180755 Hanoi VNA in English 0703 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 18—Since the signing of the Vietnam-USSR Trade and Shipping Treaty in 1958, the volume of goods exchanged between Vietnam and the Soviet Union has increased by 200 fold, Vietnam's export volume alone by 30 times.

At present the Soviet Union is Vietnam's biggest partner with the value of its export to Vietnam accounting for 80 percent of the total value of Vietnam's imports from all

the country members of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance. The Soviet Union has supplied Vietnam with a large quantity of goods, 68 percent of which consisted of fuel, material including cotton and rolled steel, fertilizers, equipment, machinery and consumer goods. Besides it has made loans to Vietnam to import complete sets of equipment and restore its trade balance.

The Soviet Union has also helped Vietnam build, restore or expand 300 projects including those of special importance such as the hydroelectric power plants at Hoa Binh and Tri An, the Pha Lai thermoelectric power plant, the Bim Son cement factory, the Lam Thao superphosphate mill, etc. Soviet-built factories are producing 47 percent of Vietnam's electricity, 85 percent of its coal, 52 percent of its zinc, 100 percent of its apatite, 50 percent of its cement and 37 percent of its tin output.

Most of Vietnam's exports go to the Soviet Union. Exports to the Soviet Union in recent year represent 60 percent of Vietnam's natural rubber, 58 percent of tea, 99 percent of coffee, 42 percent of canned fruits, 100 percent of plank, etc. Besides the Soviet Union has imported a large quantity of Vietnam's industrial and handicraft products.

Of late the trade relations have been broadened to new forms such as exchange of home trade goods and extra-protocol deliveries between the foreign trade services of the two countries.

The trade relations between the two countries have entered a new period in which cooperation and joint enterprises are gradually broadened from the initial joint venture in oil and gas exploitation. Several new agreements have been reached between the two governments, laying the foundation for establishing direct ties between the two countries at all three levels—government, branch and enterprise.

Fishing Cooperation With USSR Expanded
BK170923 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0015 GMT 17 Mar 88

[“Article” from the International Topic Program]

[Text] It is likely that not many people remember conditions during the early years of the civil war in the Soviet Union, when the country faced acute difficulties and a serious economic recession. During that period, the Soviet State set up a food fund to which the fishery sector quickly provided contributions. Today, the Soviet fishery industry provides the state with 11 million tonnes of fish annually. The sector has modernized fishing, refrigerating, and processing vessels as well as other fish processing enterprises on land. The Soviet Union has become the second largest fishing country in the world.

One of the Soviet fishery sector's important tasks is to expand cooperation with socialist countries, including Vietnam, by shifting previous business cooperation to direct joint ventures. It is noteworthy that the Soviet and Vietnamese fishery sectors have scored initial achievements in this direction.

At present, Soviet and Vietnamese specialists are conducting economic and technical feasibility studies for these joint ventures. The new cooperation will produce benefits for both sides. In the days ahead, the Soviet Union and Vietnam will establish joint enterprises for fishing in the 200-mile fishing zone off the Vietnamese coast. Output produced by these enterprises will be shared equally or sold to a third country. Cooperation in repairing sea vessels is also under study.

Since 1987, many Vietnamese youths have been trained at various fishing centers in the Soviet Union. Joint research is also being conducted, especially in Vietnamese sea economic zones. Last year, various Soviet scientific research ships conducted research on fish migration in the Eastern Sea and the Tonkin Gulf. Participating in the research were Vietnamese specialists from the Haiphong Sea Research Institute. Through these experiments, they have produced documents on the great potential for fishing in various vast coastal areas.

Moreover, specialists and cadres of the Vietnamese marine product sector have been, and are being, trained at various institutions and enterprises of the Soviet Ministry of Fish Industry. Both sides have consistently exchanged information and scientific research programs on fishing while striving to expand cooperation in this field.

Cooperation Pact Signed

BK180349 Hanoi VNA in English 1530 GMT 17 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 17—A protocol for cooperation in 1988 between the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association and its Soviet counterpart was signed here today. Signatories were Dang Huu, president of the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association, and S.I. Svetsova, vice-president of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, head of the visiting delegation of the union. In 1988, the two associations will continue to exchange delegations during major political and social events, organize Vietnamese days in the Soviet Union and Soviet days in Vietnam, and deepen the knowledge of their people about the land and people of each other's country. The Soviet organization will give its Vietnamese counterpart necessary assistance in its activities.

Cooperation Protocol With Cuba Reported

BK150909 Hanoi VNA in English 0715 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 15—A protocol on goods exchange and payment for 1988 between Vietnam and Cuba was signed in Havana on March 11.

Signatories were Hoang Trong Dai, Vietnamese vice-minister of foreign trade, and German Amado Blanco, first vice-minister of foreign trade of Cuba.

Under the protocol, Cuba will supply Vietnam with sugar, cloth, paper and other articles in return for agricultural and forest products, coals and consumer goods from Vietnam.

Prof. Doctor of Medicine Nguyen Huy Phan, president of the Vietnam Traumatic Orthopaedics Association, and deputy-director of the Army Hospital 108, paid a visit to Cuba from Feb. 14 to March 11 at the invitation of the Cuban Ministry of Public Health.

While there, Prof. Nguyen Huy Phan had working sessions with the Cuba Traumatic Orthopaedics Association, exchanged experiences and scientific research subjects with Cuban professors and doctors and made scientific reports at the Hermanos Almeijeiras Hospital, the Calisto Garcia Hospital and the Central Army Hospital.

Prof. Nguyen Huy Phan also exchanged experiences with leading officials of the Cuban Public Health Service in training young scientific cadres and they also discussed measures to promote bilateral cooperation on the research and production of microsurgical equipment.

The Science Council of the Cuban Ministry of Public Health highly appreciated Prof. Nguyen Huy Phan's working visit and decided to recognize him as Honorary Member of the Cuban Traumatic Orthopaedics Association.

On March 11, he was warmly received by Cuban Minister of Public Health Julio Tejas.

Military Delegation Concludes Cuba Visit

BK121515 Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT 12 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 12—A Vietnamese military delegation led by Colonel General Doan Khue, Political Bureau member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, vice-defence minister and chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army, concluded its ten-day visit to Cuba on March 11.

The same day, the delegation held talks with a delegation of the Cuba Revolutionary Armed Forces [CRAF] led by Lieutenant-General Ulises Rosales del Torro, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, first vice-defence minister and chief of the General Staff of the C.R.A.F. The two sides exchanged experiences in the army building and discussed measures to promote cooperation between the two armies on the basis of fraternal solidarity and proletarian internationalism.

The Vietnamese guests also visited various army units, military schools and academies in Havana, the provinces of Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba, and Matanzas and Municipio de Isla Pinos.

Regulations on Household Economy Issued
BK170855 Hanoi VNA in English 0708 GMT
17 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 17—The chairman of the Council of Ministers on March 9 signed a decision promulgating the regulations regarding the household economy in production and service activities.

The regulations say:

The household economy is a form of economy closely linked with the state and collective economic sectors.

Taking part in the household economy are only workers, government employees and co-op members working off-hours together with their parents, wives, husbands, and children under working age.

The productive activities and services undertaken by retired government workers which do not belong to the private economy are also considered activities and services of the household economy.

The household economy is not allowed to undertake production and services relating to the national security and social safety such as explosive, powder for firecrackers, poisons, toxic chemicals, opium, weapons, materials for superstitious practices, depraved cultural items, and products under state monopoly such as publishing and printing, or trade in gold, diamond, precious stones, wines, fire-crackers, tobacco, etc.

Producers in the household economy may freely sell their products after fulfilling their contracts with the state or collective economic establishments.

In its editorial on this issue NHAN DAN today stresses that the household economy is part of the socialist economy.

It notes that the household economy accounts for half of coffee production in Darlac Province, more than 90 per cent of the marketed pigs, fresh water fish and vegetables, nearly all of the eggs, more than 80 per cent of fruits and a large portion of handicraft products including those exported.

The paper also stresses on the necessity of actively encouraging and helping the household economy so that it can develop along the correct line, thus contributing to the release of all productive capacity, the increase of social products and the implementation of the three major economic programmes, particularly the food programme.

Council of Ministers Directive on Grain
TBK170747 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 16 Mar 88

[Text] The Council of Ministers recently issued Directive No 26-HDBT on a number of issues concerning work related to grain in 1988.

The directive points out the situation of grain at present; sets forth a number of policies and measures for accelerating grain production and, especially, for stabilizing step by step the regulation, circulation, and distribution of grain; in addition, it stresses the need to satisfactorily direct the production of grain, both in terms of rice and subsidiary crops, in the current 5th month-spring crop season in the north and prepare for the summer-fall crop production in the Mekong River Delta and central coastal provinces and the 1988 10th-month crop production throughout the country.

It is the duty of various sectors and localities concerned to concentrate on promptly solving the problems of fertilizer, insecticide, electricity, gasoline, and oil and to ensure sufficient electric power for the control of water-logging and drought during the 5th month-spring crop and 10th-month crop seasons in the north in particular.

Some localities facing a shortage of fertilizer are allowed to entrust others with exporting agricultural products in excess of plans after finishing the delivery of these products to the central level in exchange for additional fertilizer.

It is necessary to fully collect agricultural taxes in the form of grain in accordance with policies. These include unpaid taxes for 1986 and 1987.

Tax exemption or reduction must be decided by chairmen of provincial and city people's committees. If the extent of tax exemption or reduction exceeds the jurisdiction of the local authorities, an agreement on the matter must be reached with the Ministry of Finance and reported to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers for decision. The central level shall manage the volume of grain previously collected by provinces as agricultural taxes and shall pay them in cash at the agreed-upon prices. Debts and unpaid agricultural taxes will be collected in the form of grain. In case grain is not available, money will be accepted to buy grain to pay for taxes. Debts in grain must be fully collected, especially those left over by economic contracts during the 1986-87 period. In collecting tax debts, officials concerned must consult the tax collection record prepared by the central controlling team. If there are any discrepancies between the local and central records, collection shall be postponed; but this should not be allowed to affect the overall collection of debts. Debts settled in cash will be collected at agreed-upon prices at the time of collection.

Units and individuals must turn over to the state all the money and grain they were allowed to keep under the collecting contracts. Measures should be applied to deal with violations.

Along with accelerating the grain obligation task for the 10th-month, winter, and subsidiary food crops in northern and central provinces, we should concentrate efforts on procuring 10th-month and winter-spring rice in the Nam Bo provinces in accordance with plan norms set forth by the central government. We should implement the positive and urgent measures on delivering grain to the north, especially from now to the end of July.

The Council of Ministers' directive sets forth orientations for solving the grain and fertilizer problem for central and local levels, and defines regulations for sectors concerned to export more products so as to increase foreign currency returns for importing more grain and fertilizer. It also sets forth regulations and measures on supervising the management, distribution, and economic use of grain. The directive designs measures to mobilize workers and civil servants at state farms and forestry sites to produce more grain and subsidiary food in order to meet the localities' current demand for food and to exploit raw materials for industrial production. State stores can buy grain at agreed-upon prices from those who are entitled to purchase grain.

To carry out immediate and long-term tasks satisfactorily, the grain sector must urgently consolidate its organization and cadres to shift quickly to the grain business while sectors concerned must enhance their sense of responsibility. Ministers and heads of central sectors must directly and concretely solve urgent problems to accelerate the production and procurement of grain.

Vo Van Kiet Addresses Red Cross Gathering
*BK12559 Hanoi VNA in English 1537 GMT
12 Mar 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 12—The Fifth National Congress of the Vietnam Red Cross opened at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall, Hanoi, yesterday with the participation of more than 1,000 delegates representing its 3.5 million members in all 40 cities, provinces and special zones of Vietnam.

Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly and vice-president of the State Council, and Vo Van Kiet, Politburo member of the Party Central Committee and vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, attended the congress.

Also present were representatives of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and of fraternal countries' Red Cross organizations.

The participants heard a report made by Chairman Prof. Nguyen Trong Nhan on its activities since fourth congress.

Addressing the meeting, Vice-Chairman Vo Van Kiet urged the Vietnam Red Cross to do its best to better care for the people's health and life so as to contribute to fruitfully carrying out the party and state's social policies.

A member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, he stressed, the Vietnam Red Cross should enhance the struggle for global peace and friendship among nations and, at the same time, make full use of assistance from the International Red Cross, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and social and charity bodies so as to make positive contributions to the socialist construction and national defence.

In the evening of the same day, Nguyen Co Thach, Politburo member of the party Central Committee, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, received foreign delegates to the congress.

With him was Prof. Nguyen Trong Nhan, chairman of the Vietnam Red Cross.

2-Day Congress Closes

*BK131343 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 12 Mar 88*

[Text] As we have reported, the Fifth National Congress of the Vietnam Red Cross Association held its closing session at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi this afternoon. The delegates observed a minute of silence in memorial of the late Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Hung who, at a meeting held on Vietnam Medical Workers Day, 27 February, urged medical workers and the various sectors concerned—including the Red Cross organizations—to realize the concept of considering the people as roots and to pay attention to caring for the people's health.

At this afternoon's closing session, the congress elected a new, 60-member Executive Committee representing many organs and mass societies from all provinces, municipalities, and special zones. The new Executive Committee appointed Prof Nguyen Trong Nhan chairman, Prof Doan Xuan Muou vice chairman, concurrently secretary general, and Prof Le Cong Tam vice chairman.

During its 2-day sitting, the congress discussed a report reviewing the association's work for the last term and its operational orientations for the next one. The congress asserted the progress and achievements made by the Vietnamese Red Cross movement. Virtually all provinces, municipalities, and special zones have Red Cross societies totaling 3.5 million members, averaging 1 for every 18 persons nationwide. Nearly 8,000 teams of Red Cross youths and teenagers totaling almost 180,000 members have been set up. The association has markedly improved its practical efficiency. Millions of its members have assisted the public health network at the grass-roots level in motivating the people to participate in the sanitation movement, providing vaccination

against diseases, offering first-aid and on-the-spot emergency medical services, planting oriental medicinal herbs, encouraging the people to take up physical exercises, broadly applying popular medical treatment methods such as acupuncture and pressure application therapy, and so forth.

During the war to defend the country's southwestern border, Red Cross societies of the border provinces promptly coordinated with the Public Health Service and Armed Forces units in setting up more than 200 first-aid stations in service of wounded and sick soldiers and people in the areas of fighting. Regarding relief work, the association provided food for more than 1 million compatriots immediately after the war and offered assistance to over 200,000 war invalids, families of fallen heroes, families with meritorious services to the revolution, and victims of fires and natural calamities.

From the Red Cross movement, there have emerged progressive models such as Ho Chi Minh City; the first-aid station of Phu Ho District, Vinh Phu Province; the Red Cross first-aid station of Vung Tau-Con Dao Special Zone; the Red Cross Society of Bay Nui District, An Giang Province; Nguyen Van Ty, leader of a river rescue assault team; and so forth.

Besides these strong points, the congress pointed to the weaknesses of the Vietnamese Red Cross movement. The movement has developed unevenly both in scope and depth. The various local echelons of the association have not yet been properly consolidated. Activities have not yet been coordinated closely and regularly between the Red Cross Association and the various sectors and mass societies concerned.

The Fifth National Congress of the Red Cross outlined the general orientations and objectives of the Vietnam Red Cross Association for the 1988-92 term, which consist of further developing its positive role, striving to bring about a marked change for the better in all areas, and stepping up construction work and practical activities to make worthy contributions to the fatherland's common cause. It also set forth the tasks of the association for the next 5 years, namely concentrating efforts on consolidating its own organization, protecting the people's health, and assisting war invalids, sick soldiers, families of fallen heroes, and elderly and handicapped persons living alone. The congress approved the draft of the association statutes to meet the new situation and tasks.

In the field of international activities, the congress decided to take realistic measures for coordinating even more closely the activities of the Vietnam Red Cross Association with those of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Red Cross Movement in general, and the Red Cross Societies of the socialist community in particular. The congress deemed it necessary to

devise a plan for securing more aid from nongovernmental organizations in various countries for our people who have been subjected to untold suffering caused by protracted wars and repeated natural calamities.

The congress held that it is necessary to encourage overseas Vietnamese to collectively and individually contribute to healing the wounds of war at home, assist the compatriots living in areas subjected to natural and enemy-caused calamities, and help build the Vietnam Red Cross Association and develop its activities in various fields.

Dear friends, at the Fifth Red Cross Congress, international delegates expressed their views, thanking our party and state for having created the conditions for international humanitarian organizations to attend the Vietnam Red Cross Congress. They hoped for closer cooperation with the Vietnam Red Cross Association in order to realize the seven principles of the International Red Cross—namely humanitarianism, impartiality, neutrality, independence, gratis, unity, and equality.

On this occasion, on the evening of 11 March, Comrade Nguyen Co Thach, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of foreign affairs, cordially received at the Government's Guest House delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Cross Societies from various countries attending the Fifth National Congress of Delegates of the Vietnam Red Cross Association. With him was Prof Nguyen Trong Nhan, chairman of the Vietnam Red Cross Association.

New Committee Elected

BK121530 Hanoi VNA in English 1459 GMT
12 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 12—The 5th National Congress of the Vietnam Red Cross (V.R.C) closed here today after a two day sitting.

The congress elected Prof. Nguyen Trong Nhan as president of the Vietnam Red Cross, Prof. Doan Xuan Muou as vice president and secretary general, and Dr. Le Cong Tam as vice president together with a 60-member central executive committee representing the V.R.C at all the 40 provinces and cities and various public services and mass organizations.

Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, of the Red Crescent Societies and of Red Cross organizations of many socialist countries took the floor to reiterate their support for and cooperation with the Vietnam Red Cross in helping the Vietnamese people surmount the heavy consequences of war and natural calamities.

Briefs

Coffee Exports to USSR Noted

Hanoi VNA March 17—Since early this year Dong Nai Province, northeast of Ho Chi Minh City, has in cooperation with the Soviet Union covered 500 hectares with coffee for export, bringing its total area under such crop to 21,000 hectares. Under a contract signed between the two sides, the Soviet Union will provide coffee farms in the province with sprinklers, trucks and chemical fertilizer all worth three million roubles. In return, Dong Nai will export to the Soviet Union coffee beans and processed coffee. Last year, the province produced 7,000 tons. Meanwhile, in the first two months of this year, Lam Dong Province, the Central Highlands, exported 1,000 tons of coffee beans representing 70 per cent of last year's amount. In this crop, Lam Dong plans to gather 3,000 tons of coffee beans for export. [Text] [BK170907 Hanoi VNA in English 0704 GMT 17 Mar 88]

Population Studies Seminar

Hanoi VNA March 12—A seminar on population studies arranged by the Vietnam Centre for Population Studies (C.P.S.) with assistance from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (U.N.F.P.A.) closed here today. The opening session was attended by Tran Dinh Hoan, vice chairman of the State Commission for Population and vice minister of labour, disabled soldiers and social affairs, and Dr. Sheila Macrae, deputy representative and senior advisor on population of UNFPA in Hanoi. The director of the C.P.S., Dr. Dang Thu, delivered the keynote report on mortality, fertility and other aspects of the Vietnamese population which now stands around 63 million. More than 40 other papers presented at the seminar dwelt on the country's population growth, labour sources, population planning, family planning, redistribution of the work force and other population activities. They also proposed measures to cut the birth rate from two percent at present to 1.7 percent by 1990, and create more jobs for about one million young men and women reaching the working age every year. The seminar is part of a UNFPA project aimed at strengthening the centre's technical capabilities. [Text] [BK121549 Hanoi VNA in English 1459 GMT 12 Mar 88]

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

17 March 1988

